PRIVATE EYE

No. 1245
18 September –
1 Oct. 2009
£1.50

QUESTION TIME SHOCK

Life insurance plans that can adapt as your circumstances change. At least some things still revolve around you.

Zurich HelpPoint® is here when you need more than just insurance. We offer a range of life plans, from ones that would pay off your mortgage should the unthinkable ever happen, to others that could help you to protect against loss of earnings due to illness. Unfortunately, none of them can help with the nappies and the lack of sleep. For more information, visit www.zurich.co.uk

Here to help your world.

ZURICH®

Because change happenz®

Zurich Assurance Ltd. underwrite Life, pension & investments plans. Registered in England and Wales under company number 02456671.
Registered Office: UK Life Centre, Station Road, Swindon, SN1 1EL.

On having your say

Affordable, reliable, low carbon energy

We're on it

Wanting all three makes sense but is also a real challenge. The thing is we *do* want our energy to be all of these things but there are some tough decisions to make before we get there. We call it the 'trilemma' and we're discussing it on our YouTube channel. Go there now and have your say on the great energy debate.

Join the conversation at youtube.com/talkingenergy

e·on

At Audi, Vorsprung durch Technik is not simply our advertising slogan. It's at the heart of everything we do. By using technology intelligently, we can create cars that are genuinely progressive. One of the ways we measure progress in today's car is how efficiently it uses fuel, which is why new engine technology is at the forefront of so much of our work. Every year we take part in the Le Mans 24 hour endurance race. But for us, it isn't simply about coming first. It's an essential part of the development of highly efficient fuel-injection systems. Our new TDI engines are a direct result of this. And among the most frugal we've ever made. Take the Audi A4 2.0 TDIe, for example. At 120g/km of CO_2, it's our lowest A4 ever. Or the new Audi A3 1.6 TDI. At just 109g/km, it's one of the lowest in its class. Or the Audi TT TDI which can do 53.3mpg or 600 miles on a single tank. Even the current Audi A6 is up to 17% more fuel efficient than its predecessor. We've made fuel efficiencies in performance models too. The new S4 has a supercharged engine, but two cylinders fewer. The result is not only 97g/km improvement in CO_2 emissions but also a 0.5 second improvement from 0-60mph. Of course, with every innovation comes the challenge to create new ones. And that's what we'll continue to do. For as long as we put Vorsprung durch Technik on our adverts in fact. Official fuel consumption figures for the A3, A4, TT, A6 and S4 range in mpg (l/100km): from Urban 19.1 (14.8) – 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 27.2 (10.4) – 68.9 (4.1), CO_2 emissions from 109 – 250 g/km.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik

Gnome

AM I alone in deploring the relaxation of the rules regarding product placement in the media? It is a slippery slope Coca Cola which could lead to a media entirely dominated by commercial Kentucky Fried Chicken interests. Let me make it clear that Mitsubishi Colt in my own organisation, including Gnome Vision and GnomeSat, we will continue to uphold the highest standards Virgin Airlines in making sure that editorial and advertising are clearly separated Royal Bank of Scotland and that Vorsprung Durch Technik the consumer is not bamboozled by Comet Sale Now On the duplicitous strategems of dishonest agencies who are trying to deceive the public with subliminal Corby Trouser Press advertising.

Lord Gnome,
Gnome International Plc,
McDonald's House,
TK Maxx Street,
(World of) Beds.

"Economic recovery's on the way and it's going to last for ever"

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.
Tel: 020 7437 4017. Fax: 020 7437 0705.
***Email:* strobes@private-eye.co.uk**
Website: www.private-eye.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 01795 414 870
Overseas: +44 (0) 1795 414 870 Fax: 01795 414 555.
Web: www.subsonline.co.uk
Email: private-eye@servicehelpline.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£28 per annum. Europe and Eire £34. Airmail (rest of world) £38.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
Ten Alps Publishing, 9 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR.
Email: private-eye@tenalpspublishing.com
Display: 020 7878 2366 **Classified:** 020 7240 9129

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ. **Distributed** by COMAG Tavistock Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7QE. Tel 01895 433600.

ABC

We ask the questions
- Phone hacking: The lie's gone dead 7
- One last hurrah? Labour in Brighton 8
- Buffing up Bercow: A Hames Manual 9
- Lockerbie Update: It's Kochler and bull 9
- All about me: Liz Jones's Diary 26
- Pulp friction: Farewell, shameless sheikh 27
- Going to the dogs: Northumbria police 29

THE MG Rover report did reveal one thing: how the big accountancy firms that dominate business life and consultancy services to government rip off the taxpayer mercilessly at every opportunity.

In charge of tax avoidance scheming at the group's auditor, Deloitte, which produced such delights as Project Slag and turned a Rover group that couldn't make cars for toffee into a lessor of aircraft to Thomson Travel purely to generate tax repayments running into tens of millions of pounds, was the firm's partner, David Cruickshank.

The aircraft scheme enabled the Phoenix directors to trouser £7.7m via their Guernsey trust, handed Barclays Capital via its tax avoider-in-chief Ian Abraham around £11m and saw Deloitte pocket £2m for its trouble. That's what you call taxpayer support for a failing business.

Cruickshank has since been rewarded for this and other profitable scheming by being made the top British partner at Deloitte, in which role he personally negotiates deals with top brass at HM Revenue & Customs to settle major tax inquiries, not to mention overseeing the £50m-plus in consultancy services the firm sells to Whitehall annually. These include, er, tax advice. Back in 2000, while it was fleecing the taxpayer with tax-dodging schemes for the Phoenix bosses, Deloitte was making similar profits telling the Inland Revenue how to sell its offices to tax haven company Mapeley (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*).

● *Slicker on Mandy's empty threats, 31*

WITH the European Union pressing Britain to sell off those bank stakes held by UK Financial Investments (UKFI) as soon as possible, who is waiting in the wings with its purse open?

Step forward Tesco, which looks very interested indeed.

The supermarket giant has already hired ex-RBS boss Benny Higgins to run Tesco Personal Finance. Buying RBS or another of the former basket case banks would allow it to expand its own fledgling bank in one swoop – while allowing chancellor Alistair Darling to claim to be increasing competition in banking because Tesco is huge on the high street but not (yet) in finance.

Tesco has a head start when it comes to dealing with the government, having given Labour £71,000 since 2003 thanks to regular sponsorship of party events. Its recent announcement of 800 new jobs at its Glasgow banking call centre also gave the government a "good news" jobs story in the same city as a difficult upcoming by-election. This may explain why Darling made a high-profile visit to Tesco's Glasgow bank office last month.

Tesco's account with the Labour-friendly lobbyists Portland PR can't hurt either. Possible competitors for government-held bank stakes – notably Richard Branson – must be feeling jealous of Tesco's close relations with government.

"POLITICAL Help Behind Libya Arms Trade", the *Times* reports, quoting comments made a few months ago by the head of the Whitehall outfit that promotes government defence exports, UKTI DSO.

In a speech to a private symposium, Richard Paniguian boasted that "high-level political interventions, often behind the scenes" had enhanced the prospect of arms sales to Libya.

But the *Times* omitted to mention Paniguian's interesting CV. Before taking charge of UKTI DSO last year he had spent his entire working life at BP, where he ended up as the group vice-president responsible for Russia, Africa and the Middle East. As a Whitehall press release noted proudly at the time of his appointment, one of his most "significant" recent projects at BP was gas exploration in Libya.

Lo and behold, as soon as the government chose him for the Whitehall job, Libya ratified a billion-dollar oil deal with BP – and, after a decent interval, Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi was allowed to go home.

CHRISTIAN AID used last week's G20 meeting to renew its campaign against "tax-dodging pinstripe pirates" plying their dubious trade in the world's tax havens.

"The revenues lost to developing countries at present could, if used according to current spending patterns, save the lives of 350,000 children under the age of five each year," it claimed.

But the stark reality of tax-dodging seems to have escaped one "pinstripe pirate" a bit closer to home. Alongside the clerics and theologists on the Christian Aid board of trustees sits Phil Hodkinson, who also happens to be a director of financial services vulture fund Resolution, which is registered in Guernsey in order to avoid tax. Hodkinson even has a seat on the board of HM Revenue and Customs too. Shiver me timbers!

● *More charity news, 29*

THE *EYE* has long charted the Ministry of Justice's IT disaster that is C-Nomis, the £690m system that was supposed to link offender records across the criminal justice system and failed.

Its failure prompted the Commons public accounts committee to declare in March that the system was in a cock-up "class of its own".

Eventually, it was decided that maybe C-Nomis would work if its use was confined to jails. But the MoJ has just announced that "data collection" problems with the pisspoor system mean it can't update the prison population figures. So justice secretary Jack Straw doesn't actually know how many inmates are currently residing at Her Majesty's pleasure.

With the last count being an unenviable record of 84,150 – and stretching the system to breaking point – perhaps it's better for him not to know.

"Bloody postal strike!"

Street of Shame

THE *Mail on Sunday*'s finest bloodhounds have been sniffing out possible links between British oil interests in Libya and the release of the Lockerbie "bomber" Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi.

They were particularly excited to discover that Peter Brown, sometime manager of the Beatles and co-founder of PR firm Brown Lloyd James, set up a branch in Tripoli last year. "Mandelson's PR friend opens an office in Libya," the *MoS* reported. "The firm's favoured position with the oil-rich regime has now raised questions about the PR guru's connection to Peter Mandelson, whom he has known since the Nineties." Brown himself, it added, was "not available for comment last night".

How surprising, when the *Mail*'s own public relations are handled by, er, Brown Lloyd James!

SUNEMPLOYMENT – the paper's campaign to get Britons back into work through its *Sun* Jobs website – was launched to much fanfare and back-slapping last month.

"The crusade will aim to help a lost generation of people find work," the *Sun* proclaimed. CBI director general Richard Lambert gave three cheers: "Jobs have been lost in this recession – but a lot of jobs are still being created. Anything that can be done to bring people looking for work together with those offering jobs is fantastic."

Has Lambert actually looked at the kind of jobs being created and advertised on the website? Under the Media and New Media category, he will find that squeels@blueyonder.co.uk is looking for "stunning girls for an adult-orientated website, aged between 18-40, hard working, confident and dedicated, you must be comfortable with nudity, no previous experience is nessasary [*sic*], although you need to be comfy working on video". Candidates of a similar background can also apply to Bestofwrestling.com for work on an "upcoming adult-orientated wrestling project... Must be comfortable with nudity (working nude)".

Bad news, however, for anyone at the *Sun* interested in a new career with the latter: those puritans who control internet access at News International have blocked off the site. So porn is a good enough career choice for *Sun* readers but improper viewing for its employees.

PS. *Sun* Jobs is supported by Barclays Bank, whose online ads boast of its commitment to the Get Britain Back to Work campaign. In January Barclays announced that it would be shedding 2,100 jobs.

THE *Times*'s op-ed page went alarmingly off-message in Rebekah Brooks's first week in charge as chief executive of News International.

"Megan's Law did not protect Jaycee Dugard. It helped create ghettos of abuse – and would do here," wrote diplomatic correspondent Catherine Phillip in response to the story of the American girl who was held for years by a sex offender in California.

This flatly contradicts the view of Brooks, who campaigned relentlessly for a similar "Sarah's Law" here during her time as editrix of the *Sun* and *News of the World*. If Phillip has any sense of self-preservation, from now on she'll keep her heretical opinions to herself.

ROUTINE BBC-bashing accounted for some of the *Sun*'s glee last month when it exclusively revealed the corporation had suspended all business with Reef Television after one of its production crew masqueraded as a customer in the daytime series *Sun, Sea and Bargain Spotting*.

But the paper omitted to mention an intriguing link to a fakery scandal rather closer to home.

Craig Harman, the camera operator who appeared on screen pretending to make a £25 purchase in the Angela Rippon-fronted show, is also the man who sold to the *Sun* (for a rather larger sum, brokered by Max Clifford) photographs of TV presenter Natalie Pinkham having her right breast groped by Prince Harry in 2006. Harman discovered the negatives of Ms Pinkham's private photographs after buying her flat. The paper immediately splashed them all over its front page along with the claim they had been taken just weeks previously, while the Prince was in a relationship with Chelsy Davy. When they turned out not only to be three years old but also not Harman's to sell, the paper was forced into a swift and humiliating apology for its own false claims.

The executive responsible for the cock-up, one of the most high-profile in recent years? Dominic Mohan, last month promoted to the editor's chair.

NEVER knowingly under-hyped, the *GQ* Men of the Year awards dinner – "the most exciting prize-giving ceremony on the planet" – took place at the Royal Opera House last week.

"Even by our previous standards the line-up this year – our 12th – was preposterously glitzy," babbles the *GQ* website. "We celebrated the cream of the crop from the world of entertainment, politics, literature, film and music. Every one of our over-achievers was scrutinised, assessed, argued over before they gained their awards..."

It was, in other words, the usual orgy of back-scratching for chums of *GQ* editor Dylan Jones or people he thinks might be useful to him. Film-maker of the Year: Guy Ritchie. Entrepreneur of the Year: Matthew Freud. Politician of the Year: George Osborne. Shome mishtake?

Not at all. Last year's Politician of the Year was Boris Johnson, who just happened to write motoring columns for *GQ*. The 2007 winner was David Cameron, who just happened to grant Jones access-all-areas for his pisspoor book about the Tory leader. We wait to see how the preposterously glitzy Osborne will return the favour, but rest assured that he will.

THE editorial and advertising departments at the *Times* have been getting cosy with BMW: on 4 September the paper had no fewer than three separate articles in praise of the car-maker.

"Makeover Mini seeks another star role," gushed Valentine Low on the news pages, as he predicted that the "decision to build new models in Oxford will safeguard jobs". Giles Smith got in on the act with an accompanying commentary about "today's plumper, better-upholstered" Minis from BMW. And there was yet more, as design critic Stephen Bayley penned an op-ed piece about how "BMW cleverly taps into the British psyche".

Perish the thought that this remarkable enthusiasm was connected to BMW's decision to take out three separate advertisements in that day's *Times*.

A MYSTERIOUS Sark-based outfit called Global Investors Research is planning to publish a warts-and-all biography of Sir David and Sir Frederick Barclay, the eccentric duo who own the *Telegraph* and much of the island of Sark.

Quite when the book will be published remains unclear. The Global Investors website says November, but on the same site there are pleas for further information about the Barclays and their past, indicating that the magnum opus is perhaps not as ready as it might be.

Students of the twins may wonder why they have not issued a flurry of writs against Global Investors, the customary response to examinations of their personal or financial affairs. Perhaps Sir Dave and Sir Fred have at last got a sense of humour. Just in case they haven't, the website – www.global-investors-research.com – is well worth a glance before they have it closed down.

"You idiots. I said kitten heels"

IS THE Street of Shame losing its appetite for the phone-hacking scandal at the *News of the Screws*, as other newspapers come to realise that the Dirty Digger's hacks will retaliate ruthlessly against anyone who pursues it?

Shortage of space seems the only other explanation for the remarkably skimpy coverage given to the latest hearing of the Commons select committee looking into the affair, held on 2 September. A few papers – though not the *Sun* – reported Knacker of the Yard's testimony that Princes William and Harry probably had their voicemails intercepted by private investigators. But there was no mention at all – not even in the *Grauniad*, which broke the story – of the equally revealing evidence given by Mark Lewis, the Manchester solicitor who successfully sued the *News of the World* on behalf of Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, after the newspaper hacked into his phone. The *Screws* settled with Taylor for £700,000.

Lewis told MPs that News International had now threatened injunctions to stop him acting for other clients who want to sue over voicemail hacking – including PR man Max Clifford, whose phone was hacked by private investigator Glenn "Trigger" Mulcaire. He gave the committee a copy of a letter, dated 11 August, from Julian Pike of Farrer & Co, the Dirty Digger's solicitors: "We refute [*sic*] any suggestion that you are able to act for Mr Clifford either now or in the future or any other would-be claimant in respect of voicemail accessing allegations… You personally were party to confidential information… which you are obliged not to disclose. Were you to act for any other would-be claimant in respect of the voicemail accessing allegations, at the very least there is an undoubted risk that the confidential information would be put to use… It goes without saying that our client will object to your involvement in this or any other related case as against our client for the reasons set out above. We reserve our client's rights to take injunctive proceedings against you should you choose to disregard the matters contained in this letter."

When Lewis was asked by the committee what he understood this letter to be saying, he replied: "'You know too much. Don't act against us or we will bring the whole weight of the organisation against you'." The chairman asked Lewis on what possible legal basis NI could injunct him. "On the basis that I won," he said, "and my client got a lot of money."

All this is very odd in light of the repeated assertions by Murdoch executives that they had nothing to do with systematic phone hacking, which was all the work of just one rogue reporter and an overactive private investigator. Why so jumpy?

A FORMER *Tatler* "Babe of the Month" and son of a Hollywood actor proposes marriage to his fruity blonde girlfriend – surely a shoo-in for the Mandrake gossip column in the *Daily Telegraph?*

Not when the Babe in question is Henry Sands, son of Julian "*Room With A View*" Sands and his first wife Sarah, who was acrimoniously sacked as editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* in March 2006. Never one to forgive or forget his enemies – or even those related to them – editor Will Lewis spiked the story when it was proposed earlier this month.

WHO will succeed Paul Dacre as editor of the *Daily Mail*? One man who increasingly fancies his chances is *Sunday Telegraph* editor Ian MacGregor, aka the Milky Bar Kid, who hopes regular games of squash with Lord Rothermere will help his cause.

What may be less helpful is the latest example of MacGregor's news judgement, or lack of it. His health correspondent, Laura Donnelly, wrote an exclusive for the *Sunday Telegraph* the weekend before last revealing that doctors in Norfolk had refused to save the life of a premature baby because the mother, Sarah Capewell, was only 21 weeks and five days into her pregnancy. Had the child arrived two days later, they would have been obliged to help him. MacGregor decided this wasn't much of a story and spiked it.

Donnelly did post her article on the *Telegraph* website, however. There it was noticed by the *Eastern Daily Press*, which turned it into a splash before the nationals ran with it the next day – including the *Daily Telegraph*, whose report was the very piece the Milky Bar Kid had rejected.

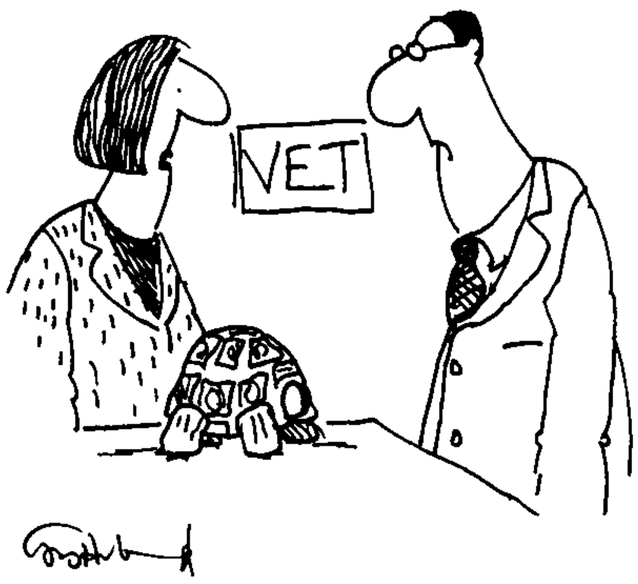
● Apologies, meanwhile, to Mr Dacre, whose purchase of a shooting estate in the Scottish Highlands was revealed in our last issue. We underestimated the mileage he will have to put in to commute: door-to-door, it is actually 600 miles.

Dacre will at least be able to cover his travel expenses by continuing to let out the estate's three-bedroom Glen Cottage – anyone keen to book should head to www.langwellestate.com.

WHEN Richard Littlejohn was alerted to an announcement in the *Times* that a Kate Pong had given birth to quintuplets named Beyoncé, Tyra, Bobbi, Barack and Earl, he smirkingly wrote in his *Mail* column that his initial reaction to such vulgarity was that it "must be a wind-up".

That there was "no mention of a Mr Pong" moved the master moraliser to quip that it was "Beyonce Belief". Had Littlejohn made a quick Google search for the prodigious Ms Pong, however, he would have discovered… a single-parent family of chocolate brown labradors.

When this was pointed out to Littlejohn, he deftly passed the buck to the *Times*'s advertising department, sniffing: "I'm amazed it slipped under the radar," before reflecting that it really would be a sign of the times when a "reader of the *Times* would call their child Beyoncé".



"His head seems to have vanished"

GUARDIAN ANGELS

WHAT is Britain's most secretive institution? Step forward the Scott Trust, owner of the *Guardian* and *Observer*.

Sometime in the next few weeks this council of elders will meet to discuss the closure of the *Observer*. But when, exactly? Although the *Grauniad* is forever castigating other companies for a lack of transparency, it refuses to answer even this simple question.

"You asked when the next Scott Trust meeting will take place," a spokesman for Guardian News & Media (GNM) emailed the *Eye* last week when we made inquiries. "I'm afraid the timing of its meetings is not something the Trust would make public." Not even to its own staff: the combined investigative resources of *Observer* hacks have failed to penetrate the wall of secrecy and discover when their fate will be decided.

If *Grauniad* executives had their way, no one would even know that the *Observer* was under threat. The original plan was to present the closure as a *fait accompli* before any resistance could be organised. But then, to their fury, someone leaked the story to the *Sunday Times* and dozens of political and cultural grandees, as well as thousands of other readers, instantly signed up to a "Stand Up for the *Observer*" campaign. Comedian David Mitchell and other high-profile supporters will address a public rally in London next Monday evening.

This is all most embarrassing for Scott Trust chairwoman Dame Liz Forgan, since the backers of the campaign are precisely the sort of people with whom she naturally mingles: the poor woman hardly dares attend a dinner party these days for fear of being berated by members of the liberal intelligentsia. It seems she may now be distancing herself from Alan Rusbridger's axe-wielding zeal. Last Wednesday she visited *Observer* editor John Mulholland, looking very anxious indeed.

Meanwhile, Mulholland's staff are kept in the dark. The only official information they are given comes in the form of weekly circulars from GNM's managing director, Tim Brooks, a kind of upmarket David Brent.

"Take the dog for a walk," he advised after the *Sunday Times* story broke last month. "Take the kids for a swim; retune that engine; re-read Jane Austen; buy in the popcorn and have a *West Wing* box-set weekend on the sofa – please make sure you remember to do whatever it is that allows you to keep a clear head, and shake off the tensions of work."

"BANKRUPTCY threat brings new concept to one of the world's biggest tax havens… taxes," was the gleeful headline on a full-page story in the *Guardian* about the financial woes besetting the Cayman Islands.

The opinion pages went on to celebrate the fact that the credit crunch means the Cayman government may have to levy taxes. "For those like the *Guardian* who want a more open and fairer tax system, this is a moment rich with possibilities," its editorial crowed.

Such disdain for offshore tax havens would carry rather more weight if the *Grauniad* practised what it preached. For what the paper's own coverage omitted to mention was that last year when Guardian Media Group bought magazine firm Emap, it set up not one but two joint-venture companies in the Caymans – to minimise any potential tax liability in the future if Emap is sold.

THE *Guardian* could hardly hide its delight at the shotgun attack on Exmoor-based lunatic Liz Jones's letterbox, devoting the whole of page 3 in its Saturday edition to listing the likely suspects in the local community who had been offended by her outspoken columns in the *Mail on Sunday*.

"Liz Jones was first persuaded to write a confessional column by an editor amused by her disastrous love life," the paper noted – but it was strangely reticent about which one.

This was odd given that Jones's navel-gazing career was kicked off by none other than Katharine Viner, who commissioned her to write "The Wedding Planner" column for the *Guardian*'s Weekend magazine in January 2002. And what does Viner do now? She is deputy editor of the *Guardian* with special responsibility for overseeing its Saturday edition.

GOT a problem? Think it might be too serious for Mariella Frostrup in the *Observer*, Bel Mooney in the *Mail* or even Peaches Geldof in the *Evening Standard*?

Until recently the *Guardian* offered a somewhat superior service, retaining the services of Linda Blair, a clinical psychologist specialising in cognitive therapy, with nearly 30 years' experience with the NHS and in private practice. Alongside her advice on problems submitted by readers, the paper also printed a selection of responses from visitors to the *Guardian* website who had experienced similar traumas.

This summer, however, Blair was told that cutbacks at the paper meant her "expert view" was being dropped. The column is now written entirely by visitors to the website, who have in recent weeks been invited to advise someone who suspects their partner is having a breakdown, a mother wondering if she should resume treatment for depression, and a woman who was sexually abused as a child by both her father and brother.

"*Guardian* readers solve your problems," the paper chirpily claims, although it does caution anyone who fancies having a go to "please be sensitive to the fact that you are responding to a real person in the grip of a real-life dilemma".

"At best, those things can be very hurtful," Blair told the *Eye* last week. The British Psychological Society told the *Eye*: "By putting the media in touch with experienced psychologists we aim to provide the public with informed help and advice, and we would encourage the media to call on individuals with such expertise to assist readers on their problem pages."

DUCK AND COVER

IN MARCH, after closing his Fat Duck restaurant for a fortnight because more than 500 diners had fallen ill, Heston Blumenthal told reporters: "It is categorically not food poisoning, we know that."

Last week the Health Protection Agency (HPA) revealed the conclusions of its investigation into the affair: "There was a large outbreak of food poisoning among diners at the Fat Duck..."

As we noted at the time (*Eye* 1232), the masterchef was given a remarkably easy ride when the story broke, thanks to nimble footwork by the "corporate crisis management team" at Matthew Freud's PR firm. Much was made of the fact that he had "voluntarily" shut the restaurant for two weeks, at vast expense to himself, because he didn't want customers to get so much as a headache from his food. "I can't take the risk of keeping open until we have exhausted every single avenue," he said. The overwhelming message was that the closure of the Fat Duck was an unprecedented act of culinary courage.

The HPA report paints a rather different picture. It notes that although diners started keeling over in the first week of January, the restaurant carried on business as usual until late February, while hundreds more were laid low. During the same period 17 members of staff had symptoms of gastrointestinal infection. Six continued working while ill, and nine returned to work before being clear of symptoms for 48 hours, contrary to official guidelines – thus increasing the risk of infection to others.

So, far from taking "voluntary" action at the first sign of trouble, the restaurant waited six weeks before notifying the authorities that anything was amiss. The Fat Duck went on serving its £130-a-head tasting menu, including sewage-contaminated oysters, fully aware that there was a very strong possibility of diners remembering their meals at the world's second-best restaurant for all the wrong reasons – as they now do.

DESPERATE times calling for desperate measures, chancellor Alistair Darling was finally allowed to utter the c-word – cut – last week, but only when followed by the word "costs", not "services".

"Properly targeted public investment can and should make a difference," he told an audience of businessmen in Cardiff. "That means making choices and setting priorities - shifting resources to the front line. It means more efficiency, continuing to reform, cutting costs…"

Er, haven't we been here before, several times? When spending went through the roof half a decade ago, then chancellor Gordon Brown brought in former Marconi man Peter Gershon, whose 2004 report "Releasing resources to the frontline" supposedly found £20bn annual efficiency savings to be made across Whitehall.

At the time the government insisted that going any further would damage services, but as deficits mounted in its third term, more efficiency savings were miraculously found. In his final budget speech in 2007, Gordon Brown promised that "with efficiency savings of 3 percent each year we release, in total, £26bn a year by 2010-11 for frontline services".

Earlier this year in his own budget, Darling was at it again, making sure money gets through to the cherished "frontline". Five businessmen appointed to run his "operational efficiency reviews" managed to identify "extra efficiencies from 2011 which rise to a further £9bn of additional savings a year by 2013-14… This will allow us to protect front line public services…"

But none of these "efficiencies" bears scrutiny. Even the National Audit Office found that much of the £20bn from Gershon's programme couldn't be accounted for, and that was ignoring the fact that many of the cuts were in tax collecting jobs that actually brought in more money than they cost, or through sacking job centre staff who are now having to be replaced.

The other way Darling proposes to raise money is also an accounting fiddle. "We need to look at what non-essential public sector assets we can sell, so that we can free up capital for key projects," he told the suits in Cardiff as if he were off to a car boot sale with some tat the nation no longer needed.

In fact the assets lined up for sale are pretty essential. They include British Waterways (see In the Back, p30), the Land Registry, the Defence Storage Agency, the Met Office and the Royal Mint. Privatising them would bring in a few quid, making a small dent in government debt. But in the long run the sales would cost the taxpayer far more as their services would have to be bought back, in the same way that PFI costs well over the odds while initially flattering the government balance sheet.

When it comes to saving public money, such "efficiency" measures are about the most inefficient way of going about it.

A GOVERNMENT initiative to put people off smoking has had an unwanted side effect: the release of lots cut-price fags on to supermarket shelves.

From 1 October, all cigarette packets must carry graphic pictorial evidence of the harm smoking causes, the Department of Health has decreed. But how have health-conscious shops responded to the deadline? Er, by flogging off their old packets of fags which don't carry the pictures at smoker-friendly knock-down prices!

When the *Eye* tried to ask the DoH about this novel health initiative, various pen-pushers said they "couldn't comment".

LABOUR IN BRIGHTON

AFTER James Purnell resigned from cabinet in his bid to hasten Gordon Brown's exit (and avoid awkward questions about his own expenses), the former work and pensions secretary joined the think tank Demos, where he has launched a project to "rejuvenate" Labour ideas (along with his own political career).

Under the slogan "power to the people", its programme for meetings at Labour's Brighton conference this month suggests, however, that the "people" in question are already powerful enough, running big companies who can afford to pay for Demos meetings.

A4E, a "benefit busting" training firm, is sponsoring a "round table" meeting with employment minister Jim Knight on "Making Welfare to Work work in the recession". Presumably the solution will involve giving more contracts to firms like, er, A4E. A second Demos meeting on the same subject and paid for by A4E will feature Treasury minister Yvette Cooper. She will be joined by A4E boss Mark Lavell.

Demos is also hosting a debate on "where next for British defence policy" with the anti-terrorism minister Bill Rammell. The event will be paid for by BAE Systems, whose executive Bob Keen will join Rammell on the platform where he will no doubt argue in favour of throwing yet more taxpayer cash at his company's late arriving, high cost military kit.

To show how much Labour has learnt from the financial crisis, Treasury minister Stephen Timms and Ruth Kelly MP will talk on the subject of "A Progressive Square Mile: the City, the crash and a fairer future" at a chinwag paid for by those famous advocates of fairness, accountants KPMG and the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA). BCVA boss Simon Walker will be joining the MPs on the platform, presuming he's not too busy elsewhere fighting post-crisis regulations on private equity and hedge funds.

Slightly more tactfully, some City types are paying for Demos meetings with Labour MPs via charitable fronts.

David Blunkett and David Lammy will address delegates courtesy of the Private Equity Foundation, the charity set up to make investment companies look like they care. And at a second Demos meeting, Blunkett and Treasury cabinet minister Liam Byrne will speak alongside City player Clive Cowdery, courtesy of his Resolution Foundation. This is the charitable arm of his "offshore" firm which is trying to cash in on the crisis by buying up banks.

THE FABIAN Society, meanwhile, has found an elegant way to enable corporate executives to mingle with Labour ministers while keeping Brighton *hoi polloi* at bay: a two-tier conference. The Fabians will have public meetings for the unwashed but corporate-sponsored "invitation only" round tables for the select few.

Avanta, another of the "benefit busting" firms (see above) that is angling for "back to work" contracts, is, like A4E, also sponsoring a round table meeting with employment minister Jim Knight (who decides who gets the contracts). Avanta's chief executive, ex-lefty businesswoman Janette Faherty, will also address the meeting.

Health minister Gillian Merron will attend a Fabian meeting paid for by Boots "to discuss how the government and private sector can develop strategic partnerships to build healthier communities". Boots of course would love some kind of official "healthier communities" stamp to bring more customers into its shops.

And, courtesy of Danone Baby Nutrition, health minister Mike O'Brien will discuss whether "nutritional habits developed during pregnancy and in the early years often prevent long-term chronic health inequalities such as obesity and diabetes. But what can be done to work with parents to improve infant nutrition and tackle the trend of rising childhood obesity?" Danone must be delighted that the minister will be implicitly boosting its marketing campaign for baby fromage frais, with its delicious added sugar, fructose syrup and vegetable oil.

Drug firm Sanofi Aventis is sponsoring a "round table" with development minister Michael Foster on "fair access" to drugs in the developing world. When Sanofi's vice president, **Dr Robert Sebbag,** joins Foster on the platform, will he explain why Sanofi has been fighting to stop Thailand using cheaper generic versions of its drugs? Or why the firm favours free trade agreements with developing nations that extend drug copyrights beyond 20 years? Don't bank on it…

DAVID CAMERON's decision to reopen the Conservatives' candidate list to political newcomers after the expenses scandal was supposed to bring in "new blood". But is it also a handy money-spinner for the party?

Last month party chairman Eric Pickles claimed that 4,000 wannabe candidates had responded to the call. Around 200 of these went forward to a parliamentary assessment board, a full-day selection process, for which they had to cough up £250 each (how many other jobs charge applicants for their recruitment?)

Next, there's an £80-a-year membership fee for the "Candidates Association" which, as unofficial Tory blog ConservativeHome gripes, "isn't optional". And, once selected and joined up, the new would-be MPs are encouraged to attend training days at £100 a pop.

THE 177-year-old independent parliamentary publisher Dod's prides itself on "the quality, accuracy and relevance of the political information it provides" through respected titles such as *Dod's Parliamentary Companion* and *House Magazine*.

But its reputation might not survive the internet age if developments at a more recent innovation, online political mag ePolitix, are anything to go by.

Struggling with a loss of advertising revenue, in the last few months ePolitix has sacked its editor, sub-editor and three experienced hacks, leaving the magazine to be put together by Dod's monitoring staff and all but bereft of editorial content.

Desperate for some coverage of the party conference season, ePolitix has decided that without hacks to do the job it will let the parties themselves write the stories. "As part of Dod's conference coverage this year", an email from the magazine says, "we are looking for researchers, parliamentary interns and [prospective parliamentary candidates] from all parties who will be attending party conferences this year to help us cover fringe events. In return, we will be paying a starting fee of £25 per write-up."

In place of "quality, accuracy and relevance", then, expect less than impartial insights from party insiders… or the hungover ramblings of apparatchiks trying to subsidise their bar bills.

DR CAMERON'S CASEBOOK

MINISTERS FOR HIRE

JOHN HUTTON is busy building a lucrative post-ministerial corporate career for himself after he leaves parliament at the next election.

Top of his list is EDF, the French energy giant that won a £12.5bn nuclear power deal while he was business secretary and now wants to recruit him as an "adviser". But EDF is not alone: Hutton has already accepted an advisory job with Eversheds, a law firm that earns big fees from giving advice on the private finance initiative. Hutton's job has already been approved by the advisory committee on business appointments, and he will be especially valuable because he has worked across government departments from health and business to energy and work.

Eversheds also does significant work for the Ministry of Defence, Hutton's most recent berth, advising on PFI programmes and acting for the department in the Baha Mousa case in which British troops were accused of abusing and killing an Iraqi prisoner.

Eversheds was embarrassed earlier this year when one of its lawyers let a briefcase full of MoD papers out of his sight on a train, allowing a thief to run off with sensitive documents about the Iraq war. No doubt Hutton's appointment will smooth over any bad feeling between the lawyers and his old ministry.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There's no group, none of us are involved in any political group at all: in fact I'm a Tory." – *Demonstrator at mosque in Harrow, Channel 4 News, 11 September*

HOW TIMES CHANGE

LOCKERBIE UPDATE

POLITICIANS on both sides of the Atlantic who have been outraged at the release of the mass-murdering "Lockerbie bomber" should take time to read the many hundreds of pages of evidence and argument in the case, expected to be released by his lawyers over the next few weeks.

Even the most vociferous might be left in some doubt as to whether Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi, freed from a Scottish jail to die with his family in Libya, was the victim of the most dreadful miscarriage of justice.

The fact that the wrong man was in the dock was evident to those few independent observers who sat through the travesty of a trial in the Netherlands nearly 10 years ago. One of those was Dr Hans Kochler, appointed by the United Nations, who concluded: "There is not one single piece of material evidence linking [Megrahi] to the crime… the guilty verdict appears to be arbitrary, even irrational."

Kochler's report was a damning indictment of the three Scottish trial judges who sat without a jury. The bulk of their judgment pointed to a not proven verdict – and then they convicted anyway.

As *Eye* readers will know, there were alterations to crucial forensic exhibits supposedly linking Libya and Megrahi to the bomb, for which police and scientists could give no proper explanation; there was a succession of flawed and glaringly contradictory evidence from key witnesses, at least two of whom were paid by the CIA; there was evidence of the striking similarity to the modus operandi of a Syrian-backed Palestinian terrorist cell, operating out of Frankfurt, caught with devices equipped to bring down planes – one of which was missing. Then, of course, there was the crucial "identification" of Megrahi by Tony Gauci, the Maltese shopkeeper who sold the clothes. In all his statements and evidence, Gauci only ever says that Megrahi bore a "resemblance" to the man who purchased the clothes – never that he was the man.

The judges performed a number of extraordinary leaps of logic to overcome these and all the other problems with the prosecution case, and it was evident to Kochler even then that "foreign governments and secret governmental agencies" directly or indirectly influenced the trial. It was supposedly a Scottish prosecution, but two US prosecutors sat alongside the prosecution team and to Kochler appeared to be "supervisors" influencing what was released into open court and what was kept secret. Said Kochler: "It was a consistent pattern during the whole trial. As an apparent result of political interest considerations, efforts were undertaken to withhold substantial information from the court."

More evidence has since emerged – such as a break-in at Heathrow near the Pan Am bay shortly before the flight took off, which was concealed from the trial. This might have explained evidence that *was* given at the trial by a baggage handler who said he saw that an extra Samsonite briefcase (like the one that experts said contained the bomb) had been placed on top of a baggage container destined for the flight while he had left it unattended when he went for his tea.

Further evidence, which the Scottish criminal cases review commission has seen, and which formed one of the six grounds that it cited pointing to the fact that the wrong man had been convicted, remains secret. Even now, 20 years down the line, the government is still claiming public interest immunity on evidence that the SCCRC said should never have been withheld.

With Megrahi's agreement to drop his appeal and his resulting release, it is clear that governments are still influencing the case. If Britain's new best friend, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, and his government have been welcoming Megrahi back in the way that seems to have offended so many commentators, it is because they owe him. He was a step in their country's rehabilitation with the west.

As the *Eye* has said ever since we predicted that the appeal would not be heard, it suits none of the administrations – the US, the UK or Libya – to have the case reopened. The release of the papers by Tony Kelly, Megrahi's Glasgow-based solicitor, should prove the Libyan was not responsible for the atrocity in the skies above Lockerbie. The papers will not prove, however, who was responsible, nor why the chance to bring the real bombers to justice was so evidently botched – or worse, deliberately sabotaged. And that is what the politicians should really be shouting about.

● *More next issue.*

HAMES MANUAL

GOOD to see *Times* columnist Daniel Finkelstein loyally defending the appointment of his portly ex-colleague Tim "Little Bunter" Hames as an adviser to Commons speaker John Bercow.

"Leadership requires sound political advice and the ability to make your case to the media," wrote Finkelstein. "This, in turn, requires a good special adviser able to understand the media and communicate. Having a special adviser of Tim's seniority and media savvy is an innovation."

Examples of Little Bunter's savvy? Finkelstein doesn't give any, but perhaps he's thinking of Hames's column on 1 January 2007, offering this Mystic Mogg-style prediction for the year ahead: "Barack Obama decides not to run for the presidency."

Hames was understandably livid when Obama entered the race a few weeks later. "Someone has to point out that this balloon has hype not helium inside it," he harrumphed on 12 February. "I will do so. Mr Obama's claim to the White House is ridiculous."

The previous November, Hames had been obliged to devour a page of the *Times*, with a dash of Tabasco, after predicting that the Republicans would retain control of the Senate and promising to eat his words if he was wrong. Once Tabascoed, twice shy? Not Hames. Again he vowed to eat his words if events confounded him. Hence the imperishable headline: "I've Got the Sauce to Say It: Barack Obama is a Loser."

Still, perhaps he's savvier on British politics? Or perhaps not. Shortly before the 2001 general election, *Prospect* commissioned a piece from Hames on the future of the Conservative party. His conclusion: "To whom else but Portillo can the Tories turn?" Iain Duncan Smith and Michael Howard turned out to be the answers.

Despite this lamentable failure, the *Prospect* editor was charitable enough to give him another go, just before the 2005 election. "There has been much chatter in the House of Commons about 'skipping a generation'," he observed. "This is usually code for handing the baton to David Cameron (born 1966) or George Osborne (born 1971). I think this would be madness and I suspect that the two of them have deduced this as well."

So who would succeed Michael Howard? Hames revealed the dream team: Andrew Lansley (*who he? – Ed.)* as leader, with David Willetts as shadow chancellor and Oliver Letwin as shadow foreign secretary.

Later that year, with Lansley unaccountably absent from the leadership contest, Hames revised his prophecy. "The final two men to be placed before the full membership," he wrote in the *Times*, "are likely to be Mr Davis and Dr Fox… The moderates and modernisers seem set, once more, to be beaten."

Hames himself loved the modernisers, and one in particular. In his *Prospect* piece from March 2005 he proposed that the first thing Lansley should do as leader was appoint a new boss at Tory HQ – one John Bercow.

ITV

Watchdog (BBC1)

ANY viewers who had been in a coma or watching ITV (often similar experiences) for the past decade would find the BBC schedules strangely familiar: *Shooting Stars* on BBC2, Daniella Westbrook getting her nose into things in *EastEnders* and Anne Robinson fronting *Watchdog*.

Television's loss of confidence and income in the recession has led to comfort-blanket tactics, dragging out of the cupboard material that once seemed to do the trick. So Nicky Campbell's legendary self-confidence takes a knock as he is kicked off the consumer show, retreating to record a ukulele album while the BBC extracts more value from the massive contract of the hostess of *The Weakest Link*.

When Robinson first fronted the programme, through the 90s, there were weighty debates in newspapers about whether it was appropriate for her to end each edition with a cheeky wink to camera. Eventually, the managing director of BBC Television stepped in and banned the gesture.

In Annie's second incarnation, though, the big question is whether her eye would now be capable of so much movement. Almost daily tabloid coverage, papping her face from ingenious angles as she goes about her daily chores, has strongly suggested that Robinson has been giving her mirror a few surprises recently.

With the unfailingly arch manner of telly trying to be in on a joke, there were frequent references to this as she returned. "After eight years, she's back on BBC1, looking younger than ever," gurgled the continuity announcer. Then Robinson's intro noted that "we might have read" about her "new look" and that *Watchdog* had "had a facelift as well". Robinson's face was deadpan during these sallies – or, very possibly, just dead.

These changes were, however, indeed cosmetic. The studio, filled with cheap aluminium and a Star Trekky bridge, looked like offcuts from the *Crimewatch* set. And, to establish how terrifically people-centred the series was, the week's guests and members of the public stood self-consciously around on the bridge, like the studio audience on a 70s *Top of the Pops*.

The idea seemed to be that because Robinson is now best-known as a terrifying quiz mistress, Britain's conmen and blaggers would hide under their settees in Essex. The unseen continuity announcer had played up to this shtick by chortling: "I almost feel sorry for the baddies!" Perhaps only TV

people could be self-obsessed enough to believe that being sarcastic to retired car salesmen for not knowing the answer you've got written on a card makes you eligible to strike terror into Jimmy "The Face" McGinty.

This conceit also fails because, possibly due to the instruction booklet that came with her new chin warning not to take it out in the rain, Annie stays firmly in the studio, dispatching others to confront the con artists.

These so-called "reports" were modern infotainment at its worst. Each short and hectically illustrated item seemed to work on the assumption that the viewers were idiots with fingers permanently poised on the switch to turn over. So the "reporter" on the lead item about whether gyms and health clubs were ignoring age-limit advice on using sunbeds was "Mel Suffield", who, although *Watchdog* immediately follows an episode of *EastEnders*, took the precaution of reminding viewers that "you know me better as Lucy Beale in *EastEnders*".

Off the back of that investigation, Robinson got to do her first big confrontation, with Duncan Bannatyne, whose chain of gyms had been fingered for risking burns to young skin. Unfortunately, as Bannatyne is also now a TV star through *Dragons' Den*, the encounter had the smugly sparring feel of a meeting between talent at the DG's Christmas drinks.

"I'm known as a bit of a dragon," Robinson began, "and you're known as a bit of a dragon, so we should be OK!"

So, in the first 10 minutes of the show, all the reporters and interviewees had been established telly stars. Next, Gabby Logan went off to Silverstone to crash-test baby buggies, although, as she explained with unfortunate honesty, her own children are now too old to need them. You imagined the mouth of a researcher falling open in a way that Robinson's can't.

Every item, though, had to be given some kind of desperate showbiz gimmick. Customers disgruntled with Virgin Media were encouraged to deliver their objections in song. But most horrifying were the "rogue traders", two ageing blokes in black leather who roar around on a motorbike investigating con artists. As if that were not enough shtick already, there's a special effect in which one of them becomes the Incredible Hulk, his face changing colour, when he gets really angry about a scam.

While the papers are making such a fuss about the presenter's new look, it does seem slightly unfortunate that Robinson's face is a picture of natural simplicity in comparison with the ghastly and contrived façade of the programme itself.

'Remote Controller'

MEDIA NEWS

THE outsourcing of the BBC's telephones and computer systems to Siemens, as part of a £10bn "Value for Money" deal, isn't just causing chaos in London newsrooms, although problems still persist there, with email down for nine hours after the latest malfunction.

BBC Scotland is also a victim as the Glasgow phone system goes down whenever its computer network crashes, and mobiles have to be used to summon "technical support". Worse, there are no light switches in the Pacific Quay building, so when the computers inevitably crash, lights can only be operated from a call centre in London, again summoned by mobile phone.

Alas, until systems are rebooted, health and safety regulations require that the entire Glasgow building be evacuated: bad news if you're about to go on air with a breaking news story.

Meanwhile, staff whose email accounts actually do work have been inundated with "really *trashy* advertisements for penis enlargers", moaned a well known BBC insider. "It's been a real cock-up," sighed our source of the outsourcing.

GOING LIVE

BBC World News presenter Jonathan Charles, normally a skilled operator, came a cropper all thanks to a missing full stop while reading the autocue.

Instead of introducing himself and going on to the headlines – "This is the BBC World News, I'm Jonathan Charles. Kept hidden for almost two decades and forced to bear children..." etc, Charles ended up revealing rather more than intended thanks to poor punctuation. "This is the BBC World News, I'm Jonathan Charles kept hidden for almost two decades and forced to bear children..."

And in case anyone missed the gaffe, Jeremy Hillman, head of the BBC's economics and business unit, uploaded it to YouTube, where it has been viewed nearly 800,000 times.

FORMER Endemol chief turned "media consultant" Peter Bazalgette – or "Baz" as he's affectionately known in the TV industry – is everywhere at the moment.

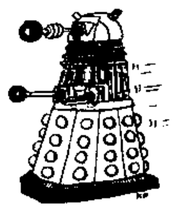
He appeared alongside David Elstein on the *Today* programme earlier this month discussing which parts of the BBC should get the chop. And at the Edinburgh Television Festival hootenanny, it was Baz who hosted a Q&A with James Murdoch following his MacTaggart lecture attacking the BBC.

Baz was also to be found on the letters page of the *Observer*, arguing that although Murdoch had gone too far, the BBC still needs critical friends. But what lies behind this media charm offensive by the man who brought *Big Brother* to the UK?

Could it be because behind the scenes he is lobbying hard to replace Luke Johnson as chairman of Channel 4?

I'VE STARTED MY OWN PRODUCTION COMPANY...
AND THE FIRST PROGRAMME WILL BE CALLED...
'JORDAN STARTS HER OWN PRODUCTION COMPANY'
Ken Pyne

BIRTSPEAK 2.0



"Independent review of compliance procedures in Audio and Music – Terms of reference 08 September 2009...

"In carrying out the Trust's review of the effectiveness of these measures, the review team will be asked to address the effectiveness of the implementation of these measures, including an assessment of the adequacy of any training or other form of promulgation, aimed both at the in-house and the independent production community with a focus on the understanding of risk and clarity as to responsibility at all stages of the process, [and] the adequacy of the BBC's plans to monitor their implementation, to ensure that any necessary modifications are adopted."
– Latest BBC paperwork produced in response to those Russell Brand/Jonathan Ross phone calls nearly a year ago.

DUMB BRITAIN

Wogan's Perfect Recall, C4
Terry Wogan: What piece of clothing is traditionally awarded to a sportsman for representing his country internationally?
Contestant *(after long pause)*: A jockstrap?

The Weakest Link, BBC1
Anne Robinson: Which architect designed Terminal Five at Heathrow and the Welsh National Assembly building?
Contestant *(and eventual winner)*: Wren.
AR: In medicine, a cochlear implant is designed to enhance which of the senses?
Contestant: Can you repeat the question, please, Anne?

AD NAUSEAM

BMW's new campaign sees a marked gearshift for the carmaker, shunning the normally ice-cool techno slant for some smiley-lifestyle drivel. "BMW don't just make cars," runs the tagline, "We make Joy."

This comes from an American agency, GSD&M Idea City, into which BMW has consolidated its global advertising. Large brands like global campaigns because they save money, but the pay-off is that they can lose sensitivity to local markets.

Like Europe, for example, where, near the anniversary of the start of the Second World War, the word "joy," coming from a German car-maker, is a doozy of epic proportions.

Car-making, in the form of the production of an affordable car (that would become the Beetle) was one of the central tenets of the Nazi's Strength Through Joy programme. Read back the ad's copy – "Joy is youthful, joy shapes the future, it can even be counted. Joy is efficient, dynamic and unstoppable." Goebbels would be proud!

JOINED-UP advertising on ITV's ratings juggernaut *The X Factor* where, in a recent commercial break, the government's new anti-drug driving slot aired, featuring a group of friends in a car with exaggeratedly large eyes. The voiceover told how, "Your eyes will give you away."

Next up was an ad for No. 7 Extravagant Lashes mascara, promising "a dramatic wide-eyed look." The message was clear: never wear mascara while driving.

"BAN booze adverts," boomed the *Daily Mail* last week as it reported a demand by doctors to "end £800m-a-year blitz they say is turning a generation into bingers". Under the spotlight was the drinks industry's bankrolling of sport, including Carlsberg's £6m sponsorship of Liverpool FC.

Also in that day's edition: an ad on the sports pages for discounted cans of Carlsberg, the "official beer" of the England football team.

The *Telegraph* also covered the medics' musings. However, the paper's advertising department, perhaps a few sheets to the wind and well aware of who pays the piper, made it plain what it thought of the idea: beneath the story was a massive ad for Tesco's Autumn Wine Festival: "Up to 50% Off".

EYE TOLD YOU SO

"An advertising campaign promoting the Malaysian palm oil industry is taking greenwash to dizzy new heights... Under the heading 'Palm Oil: the *Green* Answer', the *Economist* carried an extraordinary full-page puff [by the Malaysian Palm Oil Association] which gushed: 'What makes palm oil so attractive is that its production puts minimal strain on the environment'... Will the advertising regulators fall for this blatant greenwash?"

– Eco Gnomics, Private Eye *1236, 15 May 2009*

"A misleading advert claiming palm oil is 'sustainable' has today been banned by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), following a complaint by Friends of the Earth."

– Friends of the Earth press release, 9 September 2009

IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?

"IT'S not often we get to examine examples of our journalism alongside members of our audience in the same room," reveals the BBC's deputy news editor in an email to Newsgathering staff about a forthcoming workshop. Its title? "Swine Flu/Meet the Audience Session."

POPEYE

LAST December the Eye recorded the Metropolitan police's quiet dropping of a requirement for pub and club licensees wishing to host live music to state in writing at least two weeks ahead of any gig whether any "particular ethnic group" would be attending.

But as we noted at the time (*Eye* 1226), "a suggestion as to exactly which music fans are being targeted, however, remains in the edited version of the form: 'Music style to be played/ performed (eg Bashment, R'n'B, Garage)'."

Last week that question too disappeared from the controversial "Promotion/Event Assessment Form 696". "We have dropped the question about which type of music will be played – it really does not add anything," admitted Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Martin of Scotland Yard's clubs and vice unit. But despite the decision coming weeks after an appeal to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission by campaigners, Chief Supt Martin insisted that the wording of the form had not been "discriminatory" but rather "clumsy."

No such worries with the latest version of form 696, which merely asks venue managers "Do you have other knowledge of the acts or crowds attending that would need special considerations to be made to limit crime and disorder (eg the make up of the patrons)?"

Michael Jackson's story of his life is very similar to the story of Jesus. This young guy who, from when he was very young, showed signs of being exceptional. Jesus went around preaching the gospel and touching people to make the blind see and making lepers better. Michael Jackson's gone around the world and done that – he might not have literally touched someone and made them see but, apparently, I don't know if this is true, there were kids around him who had cancer that didn't have cancer any more.

SPEECH DEBELLE
Metro

Submitted by Tony Gillan

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.

- Three soldiers killed in Afghanistan named
- Suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan
- Clinton wants Lockerbie bomber to stay in jail
- Ransom demand made for missing ship
- George Michael whams trucker in rear

Yahoo! News

NEWS FROM THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

WHEN news of the Nato mission to release the journalists Stephen Farrell and Sultan Munadi reached Kandahar, it was greeted by almost universal anger among the lads.

It wasn't just the death of Corporal John Harrison from the Parachute Regiment that caused resentment; it was also the fact that he had died rescuing a journalist, an objection not heard so clearly before.

What really infuriated those in the NAAFI was learning that Farrell had already been captured once before and that this time he had "ignored" advice to avoid the area where he was abducted. Ignoring advice is a cardinal sin.

Though reporters do receive basic training in how to respond to an abduction, it's pretty pisspoor. As part of the hostile environment course undertaken by BBC hacks, groups of reporters are routinely "abducted" in order to drill them in survival techniques. They are driven around a military range and stopped by former special forces soldiers in ski masks, dragged from their vehicles, tied up, bagged (their heads are put into sacks) and they are slapped around a bit.

On one course, Robin Lustig from Radio 4's *The World Tonight* decided to try to "reason" with his kidnapper, a terrifying former South African soldier who was screaming at him in Afrikaans. "Parlez-vous Français?" asked Lustig. He was "shot" on the spot for his trouble.

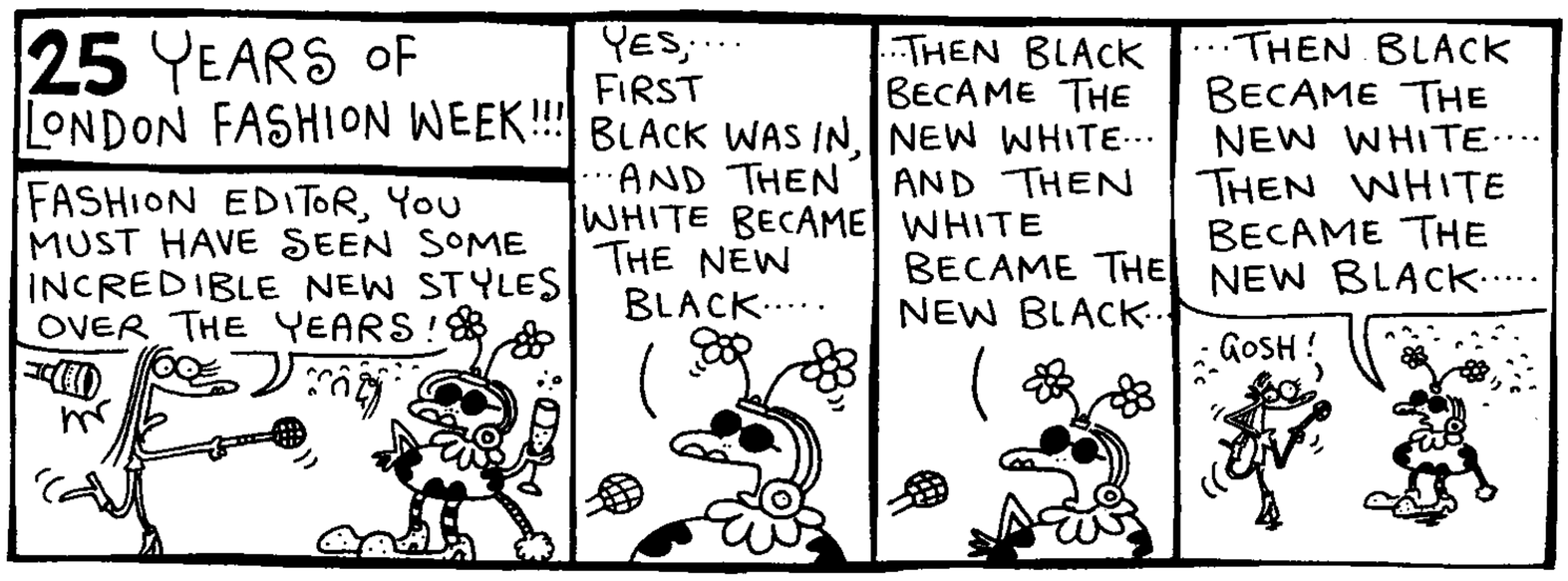
Meanwhile *Panorama*'s foghorn-voiced John Sweeney managed to irritate his instructors so much before his "abduction" that he was singled out for terrifying revenge: guns were fired behind his head and the odd punch was thrown.

It may make for amusing banter in the newsroom, but it's not ideal preparation for avoiding or dealing with capture. Soldiers know this and for the first time are making their anger about poorly-trained journalists taking risks known through the chain of command.

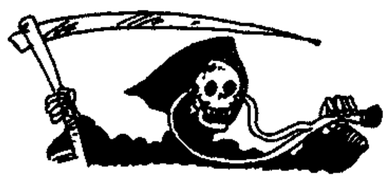
'Squarebasher'

SUPERMODELS

KERBER


25 YEARS OF LONDON FASHION WEEK!!!
FASHION EDITOR, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN SOME INCREDIBLE NEW STYLES OVER THE YEARS!
YES,... FIRST BLACK WAS IN, ...AND THEN WHITE BECAME THE NEW BLACK.....
...THEN BLACK BECAME THE NEW WHITE... AND THEN WHITE BECAME THE NEW BLACK...
...THEN BLACK BECAME THE NEW WHITE.... THEN WHITE BECAME THE NEW BLACK.....
GOSH!

MEDICINE BALLS



Bristol fashion?

THE histopathology review at University Hospitals Bristol (UHB) prompted by the *Eye*'s exposure of allegations of serious errors in reporting of skin, breast, lung and gynaecology specimens between 2000 and 2008 (*Eyes passim*) may have to cast its net still wider. A senior specialist with many years' experience at UHB has now demanded that paediatric pathology be investigated, too.

The paediatric pathology department was recognised as one of the best in the world prior to the Bristol heart inquiry in 2001, with three specialists including a professor and a senior lecturer. The samples they kept were instrumental in proving that the standard of complex paediatric heart surgery prior to 1995 had been so poor. When it emerged that most of the samples had been kept without parental consent, the pathologists were hung out to dry in the press and, unsupported by management, they left.

According to the allegations: "Over the next two years paediatric work was done by adult pathologists… from a highly dysfunctional department, some of whose competence in their own fields was in doubt. The results were disastrous, particularly in the fields of children's cancers and Hirschsprung's disease... The trust appointed a non-UK trained paediatric pathologist who had not been short-listed for posts elsewhere. He should never have been appointed and within a few months it was apparent that he was incompetent. Serious errors in children with cancer and Hirschsprung's disease continued (one of the latter died as a direct result of this). His post-mortems were of a very poor standard. This caused particular problems in children dying of heart disease. After clinical staff reported numerous incidents to managers they were eventually forced to take action and he left to work in Europe.

"Following this, two new paediatric pathologists (PP) were appointed but one found the environment so hostile she left soon after. Since then a singlehanded PP has soldiered on valiantly despite hostility from adult pathologists and little help from managers. The standards are very high when she is there but there are still major problems when she's away. She does all the biopsy work but not post-mortems. £450,000 comes to the trust for regional perinatal work and the adult pathologists have tried to keep this for their own use. They have also used devious tactics to try to block appointments to the two vacant PP posts. It is hoped that one post will shortly be filled but meanwhile there are serious deficiencies affecting oncology, cardiac, genetic and surgical services."

In response, UHB has referred all these new allegations to the pathology review team, to be chaired by Jane Mishcon. In addition, "the incident alleged in the letter was fully investigated at the time. As a result, the Trust reported an individual to the General Medical Council, whose name was removed from the medical register at the end of 2004".

Meanwhile, in the draft minutes of a 12 June 2009 meeting, UHB gynaecologist John Murdoch refers to the *Eye*'s reporting of the trust's pathology problems as "sensationalist" and referring to "a few lung cancer cases". In fact, many of the allegations are in his own area and the trust has confirmed that "Mr Murdoch was aware of the serious allegations about gynaecology reporting in June 2008". Odd that he should not minute them a year later.

M.D.

NHS PLC

THE recent report by the McKinsey management consultancy identifying where the National Health Service might save money was most interesting for the area it ignored: the huge amount the NHS spends on management consultants like, er, McKinsey.

In recent years the NHS has spent between £350m and £600m annually on external consultants, the bulk of whose work is not related to patient care. And while McKinsey focused on hospitals in identifying possible savings, it paid far less attention to the new and bloated management bureaucracy within the primary care trusts (PCTs) where admin spending has more than doubled to £1.2bn.

The Department of Health suggests that increases in PCT management costs are a result of their "attempting to drive forward system change". In other words, it is an expensive side-effect of Labour's drive to turn the NHS into a competitive "market".

One look at the managerial job ads in *Health Service Journal* shows where the money is going. "Commercial" directors – who weren't needed or even thought of 18 months ago – can now earn between £90,000 and £100,000; and all require backroom support. So much for Tony Blair's war crusade about slashing NHS bureaucracy in the run-up to the 1997 election!

MORE on Simon Stevens, Tony Blair's former health adviser, who is busy in the US fighting President Obama's moves towards a limited public health system (see last *Eye*).

Having spearheaded the drive to privatise the NHS in Britain, Stevens joined private US health firm UnitedHealth, which is encouraging its US staff to campaign against the "public option" of Obama's proposed reforms while in Britain trying to win more contracts from our own state-funded NHS.

Obama's "public option" only refers to a public health insurance scheme for able-bodied adults to run in parallel with private health insurance. But companies like UnitedHealth don't like it. Nor do plenty of US politicians, who, given Stevens' experience with the NHS in Britain, want to hear what he has to say. For example, the "Blue Dog" group of right-wing Democrat senators, who started the resistance to the "Public Option", did so after holding a round-table discussion to which UnitedHealth, represented by Stevens, was invited.

After the "Blue Dogs" put up a roadblock to reform, Obama began negotiating with the Senate finance committee chaired by Senator Max Baucus. Stevens lobbied a key member of that committee, Senator Kent Conrad, in late May. Soon afterwards Conrad said the "Public Option" was "dead".

So what is Stevens telling the Americans? Obama bases his case for reform very much on cost grounds, hoping his "Public Option" would, by competing with greedy health insurers, drive down costs. But Stevens claims private insurers like UnitedHealth can do this themselves, and he told senators how introducing new computer systems could cut US healthcare costs by $332bn. This from the man who helped launch the NHS Connecting for Health initiative, a computer programme that cost £12bn… and still barely works!

"A state-funded healthcare system!"

SIGNAL FAILURES

GoVia goes ahead

GOVIA's three rail franchises "performed well" in the year ended 27 June 2009, shareholders were told this month. But passengers on London Midland Trains, Southeastern and Southern might disagree.

According to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), train delays worsened at all three franchises in 2008-9 compared to the previous year. The decline at Southeastern and Southern was relatively small but it contrasted with better punctuality across the rail network.

LMT was created from parts of two earlier franchises in 2007, so the ORR doesn't record LMT's 2007-8 full-year performance. But in the last quarter of 2008-9, LMT registered 84.5 percent punctuality, down from 89.4 in the same quarter of 2007-8. Rush-hour punctuality plummeted from 89.8 to 67.7 percent. Passengers suffered mass cancellations last winter, thanks largely to staff shortages and poor preparation for new services.

GoVia, which received £162m direct subsidy last year, is mostly owned by bus firm GoAhead and generates two thirds of GoAhead's turnover. This month GoAhead's annual report for the year to 27 June revealed that chief executive Keith Ludeman was paid a whopping £318,000 bonus on top of his £500,000 salary, while finance director Nick Swift took £175,000 on top of his £275,000 salary.

While their salaries were frozen "in view of the current wider economic conditions", their bonuses are based on various performance indicators, and Ludeman's was £20,000 less than in 2007-8, and Swift's £11,000 less. However, GoAhead's remuneration committee apparently thought such hardship terribly unfair. So the committee, which is chaired by former civil servant Patrick Brown (who has bagged various posts with companies that benefited from the rail, bus and water privatisations he helped push through), "resolved to award a discretionary bonus" outside the "normal annual bonus structure" because GoVia had won the short and complicated new Southern franchise. Thus it is that Ludeman and Swift get an extra £100,000 each this autumn – easily compensating for the salary freeze and lower annual bonus and hardly reflecting those "wider economic conditions".

● PS: When GoAhead released its annual results, Ludeman warned of more GoVia job losses, on top of 300 recent ones.

● PPS: Three days later, LMT cancelled almost all its trains for a whole day "due to staff shortages".

ABERDEEN council's enterprise committee unanimously agreed this month to beg other bus firms to compete with FirstGroup in the city, where passengers are sick of high fares, route changes and strikes. What ingratitude from the home city of FirstGroup, which delivered a 39 percent rise in operating profits in 2008-9 as its turnover reached £6.2bn.

Meanwhile, passengers in the south west have been experiencing the entrepreneurial flair which helps raise FirstGroup profits. Bus drivers in the region issue "change tickets" when they can't give the correct change, but the vouchers can't be used against subsequent fares. To redeem the vouchers for cash, passengers must go within 14 days to one of five "First travel shops", most of which close at 5pm. They're also shut on Sundays (and Saturdays in Wells). Passengers who don't do this (because the voucher's worth less than the cost of getting to a travel shop and back) donate their change instead to WorstGroup. *Kerching!*

'Dr B Ching'

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

TAXI RANK

LOCALS are at a loss to understand why Plymouth city council's Tory leader Vivien Pengelly is so keen to flog off the profit-making Citybus company, in which the council is the majority shareholder.

The proposed sale was not mentioned in the Tories' election manifesto. When Pengelly became leader, she vowed that she would always listen to the people of Plymouth – yet she has ignored a petition against the proposed sale signed by 20,000. Furthermore, the mad bat proposes to spend a staggering £942,000 of the people's money to find out how much Citybus is worth, and to invite and assess bids.

Senior Plymouth Tories have warned Mrs P that she is jeopardising the party's chances in the next local elections. With Plymothians having suffered a 4.8 percent council tax rise earlier this year, one of the highest in the UK, and having lost £13m in the Icelandic banks, any sell-off of Citybus can only worsen the city's ailing finances, whatever the short-term gain.

To date, four companies have expressed an interest. The clear front-runner is a consortium led by John Preece, head of a firm called Taxifast. The consortium also includes another cab firm, Taxibank, in which Plymouth's cabinet member for finance, Ian Bowyer, happens to have shares. For some reason Cllr Bowyer only declared his interest in Taxibank *after* he had taken part in council discussions about flogging off Citybus.

● WHEN computer training firm RedPC Services applied for voluntary winding-up this summer, it was the latest in a series of business flops for owner Martin Prescott. A previous incarnation of RedPC went into liquidation in 2006, owing hundreds of thousands of pounds – including more than £200,000 to the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.

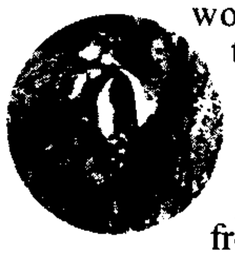
Companies House records reveal that Mr Prescott has several other dissolved IT companies and many creditors in his wake. No better man, then, to scrutinise the financial decisions of a big London council with a multi-million budget and safeguard taxpayers' money as chair of its overview and scrutiny committee!

The London borough of Enfield seems to agree. Tory councillor Prescott told the *Eye* that he had made council leader Kieran McGregor and senior officers aware of his unhappy business record: "They asked me if I had any skeletons in my cupboard. I said I had so many that I had run out of wardrobe space." According to Cllr Prescott the council's bigwigs told him they thought his experience of failing firms might be useful. Indeed. One of his tasks this year will be to review why Enfield's leisure centres trust ended up in liquidation with a £675,000 deficit after a disastrous privatisation.

OVAL TEST

LAMBETH council's taxpayer-funded propaganda paper, *Lambeth Life*, has a weekly feature called "The Lambeth Picture". Upbeat photos submitted by residents portray a positive image of life in the deprived, crime-ridden, Labour-run sarf London borough.

The latest issue features an idyllic sylvan scene: "Children on Lambeth's historic Triangle Adventure Playground watch a great spotted woodpecker that has tunnelled into their old cherry tree." Their photo shows inner-city kids gazing up at said bird (see left) – a remarkable sight in the midst of tough estates just a mile as the woodpecker flies from Westminster.



It's a good, true, green news story – except that behind the scenes Lambeth is intent on closing down and concreting over the playground, run by a charitable trust, that has been an oasis and refuge for generations of children. The Triangle, close to The Oval cricket ground, was created among Lambeth's bomb sites after the Second World War by a remarkable local teacher, Marjorie Porter MBE, who was honoured for a lifetime's work on behalf of the borough's children. She died in January, aged 101. But after she was gone the borough lost no time trying to get rid of the playground – which provides the only supervised, out of school play provision in an area increasingly notorious for young people who play on its streets with knives and guns.

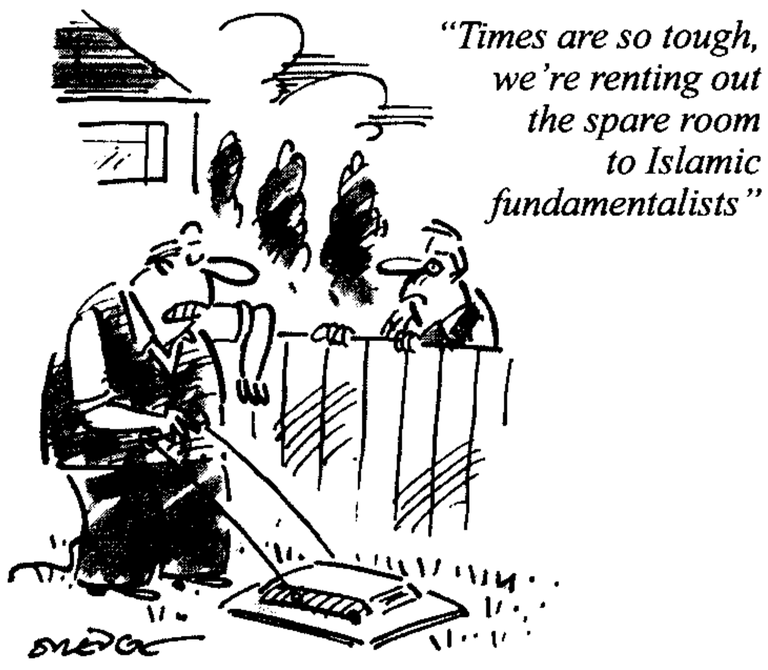
Last December Lambeth won a grant of £1.5m from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' "play pathfinder" fund, on top of £1m from the DCSF's "play builder" fund in April 2008. The money would, the council claimed, "make a significant improvement to the play opportunities for children and young people in the borough".

But the playground shares a 70-metre boundary with the neighbouring Archbishop Tenison's school, a grant-aided Church of England secondary school for boys, which has long coveted the land on which the Triangle stands to increase its own playground space. The chair of the school's governors, Robert Moreland, a former Tory chief whip on Westminster council, has declared the community playground to be "a disgraceful waste of space". The volunteers on the Triangle's management committee believe that senior Lambeth education officers are sympathetic to the school's territorial ambitions.

The council is now refusing to renew the Triangle's lease for more than a year, because it backs Archbishop Tenison's expansion plans under the Building Schools for the Future programme. Without at least a 10-year lease the playground's committee will be unable to demonstrate the security of tenure necessary to raise the annual £100,000 in grants it takes to keep the playground staffed and open. With the charity bankrupted, the playground will close and the council, onion in hand, will be able to hand over the land to Archbishop Tenison.

Freedom of information requests to the council have revealed that the school's development under BSF could be achieved perfectly well without using the Triangle's land – and that if the school does get the land, it intends to use it not as a playground... but as a car park.

The local community is furious. Triangle supporters hope Ed Balls' department may come to the rescue – it is not best pleased that Lambeth's officers are using one of the secretary of state's pet projects to frustrate another. It would make him and his department look silly – and that would never do.



"Times are so tough, we're renting out the spare room to Islamic fundamentalists"

OVER THE HILL

LINCOLNSHIRE Tory councillor Pauline Watson, who spent £872 of taxpayers' money making 957 late-night calls in one year to a single mobile phone number (*Eye* 1243), may have taken her cue regarding expenses from county council leader Martin Hill.

The council's senior finance officers got in a flap after Hill submitted a claim for staying overnight at the Intercontinental Hotel in Park Lane while attending a conference in London. The cost of £292.58 was more than twice the £130 the council allows for London hotel accommodation. The Intercontinental's spa offers services including massage, seaweed wrap, hot wax treatment, "urban cleanse for men" and reflexology. Hill's claim was duly passed.

Back in the 1990s Cllr Hill, as opposition finance spokesperson, was famous for his impassioned interventions against the "extravagant" spending priorities of the Labour/Lib-Dem coalition then in control. As leader, however, the firebrand appears to have mellowed into an appreciation of the finer things of life. Exotic coconut rub, anyone?

● THIS handsome hunk is Mike Snelling, Conservative leader of Gravesham council in Kent, in demolition man mode on a poster mocked up by protesters who object to the council's plans to build on a small green public space called St Andrews Gardens beside the Thames at Gravesend (*Eyes* 1223 & 1229). Snelling threatened the local civic society with unspecified legal action unless the posters were taken down. Apparently he thought they made him look ridiculous. But he needs no help in that department.

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER

I LOVE THESE PLACES! THEY'RE A ROWDY, RAUCOUS ALTERNATIVE TO GALLERY-GOING OR MUSEUM VISITS
TEN PIN BOWLING
AND DIG THESE FUNKY BOWLING SHOES, QUIN!
GUYS, COME QUICK! MAX HAS SPRAINED HIS WRIST ATTEMPTING A "STRIKE"!
IS THERE A PARAMEDIC IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN DEATH-TRAP?!?
DO SOMETHING, BOZO: IF THAT WRIST IS DAMAGED IT'S "GOODBYE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED GRAPHIC DESIGNER" AND "HELLO LAWSUIT"!!!

Mr Jones said it could take the Treasury 15 years to rebuild the public finances. He said: 'These figures are grim. We face difficult decisions around some scared cows on public expenditure, and significantly higher taxation.'

Daily Mail

NOOKS and CORNERS

THERE is talk of building a new railway line for Eurostar trains north of London to connect with the Channel Tunnel: very sensible, necessary – and expensive. So it's sad to recall that we once had such a thing until it was destroyed by Dr Beeching.

The Great Central Railway opened in 1899 from Marylebone to the Midlands and ran through the centres of Leicester and Nottingham. It was Britain's last main line, built not only for high speeds, with gentle gradients and curves, but to a continental loading-gauge (the gauge is the same abroad but the carriages are wider) in anticipation of connecting with the Channel Tunnel promoted by the company's megalomaniac chairman, Sir Edward Watkin, in the 1880s.

Most of the Great Central was closed in the 1960s, two decades before work on the tunnel finally began. The great viaduct over the Ouse at Brackley has been destroyed and a tawdry shopping centre built on the site of the station in Nottingham. In Leicester, however, the steel bowstring Braunstone Gate Bridge that took the railway over the River Soar survives – but now Leicester city council wants to demolish it.

The council bought the bridge and a length of the abandoned railway in the 1970s but, after getting young people to paint it as part of a youth employment scheme, neglected to maintain it. The public footpath over it was closed in 2000 because the bridge was deemed unsafe (repairs might cost about £775,000). It is now proposed to demolish it, along with a decent Victorian pub in Duns Lane called the Pump & Tab, as part of a deal with De Montfort University. Demolition will cost some £472,000. De Montfort wants the land so it can build a £6m swimming pool and sports centre. A petition against the destruction of bridge and pub has been signed by 1,300 people.

If the Great Central line is revived (as it ought to be) as a high-speed route, it will probably not go through the centre of Leicester so this bridge won't be needed; but that is not the point. The bridge may not be beautiful, but it is an impressive structure and tangible relic of Leicester's industrial past; besides, local people like it. Bridge and pub should stay.

MORE gratuitous destructiveness, this time in Lincolnshire, where since 1970 a former Drill Hall has been Horncastle's Town Hall.

This modest brick building was erected in 1901 by public subscription for the 1st battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment and was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers in two world wars. It later passed from the Territorial Army to Horncastle district council, and then to East Lindsey district council which now wants to move elsewhere.

Three years ago the council's Town Hall working group recommended that the building could be revitalised as community groups were interested in using it. But now the council has decided to demolish a perfectly sound building and sell the site for development: so much for sustainability.

This is opposed by the Victorian Society and by SAVE Britain's Heritage, who point out that English Heritage's guidance to local authorities stresses the importance of such buildings in creating local identity and that "The aim on disposal of heritage assets should be to obtain optimum value, rather than the highest price".

So there is no need for East Lindsey to be so greedy and vandalistic.

AT LAST some (surprising) good news. In *Eye* 1216 I described how the Roman Catholic diocese of Shrewsbury closed the great domed church of SS Peter & Paul at New Brighton on the opposite side of the Mersey from Liverpool – aka the "Dome of Home" – despite vocal opposition from parishioners.

The diocese claimed the listed 1930s building was too expensive to run, although it had neglected to spend money raised for the church on its maintenance. The congregation was suddenly shifted to a nearby Anglican church. But the days when the Roman Catholic hierarchy can treat the laity with such contempt may be over. The campaign group SOUL [Save Our Unique Landmark] took its appeal against closure to the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican – and has won its case. Rome has ruled that the closure order was "null and void" and that the diocese acted in breach of canon law. So will the Bishop of Shrewsbury apologise and reopen – and repair – this fine building? We shall see.

In London, meanwhile, the (Anglican) diocese of London's attempt to sell St Mark's, North Audley Street, in Mayfair to a developer who wants to turn the grade I listed building into a "medical centre", ie, luxury spa, is being thwarted by the usually accommodating Church Commissioners.

At the forthcoming public inquiry into this scandal (see *Eyes* 644, 1221 and 1223), the commissioners intend to submit that they "believe that the diocese of London should seek to enter negotiations with the lessee (Hammer Holdings) to secure a settlement such that the church building could be brought back intro use as an Anglican church by Holy Trinity, Brompton".

Fine church buildings being used for worship rather than being discarded as redundant "plant" or regarded as a commercial asset? Wonders never cease…

'Piloti'

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH

Young, rebellious, eager to take on the boring old farts of the art establishment...
HIRST'S FEUD WITH TEENAGE ARTIST, PART 2
CARTRAIN, 17, ARRESTED FOR NICKING PENCILS FROM HIRST INSTALLATION. SUED LAST YEAR FOR USING DIAMOND SKULL IMAGES.
Disgraceful!
Poor Damien!
He so hates being teased.

I-SPY *Duffield, Derbyshire*

Submitted by Peggy Lynn. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs)*

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

WHILE the British government extradites innocent British citizens to known corrupt foreign jurisdictions using the notorious European arrest warrant (EAW) and Trials in Absentia, Germany is far more protective of its citizens.

Having tried, unsuccessfully, to introduce EU-wide legal safeguards during its presidency – Germany even refused to extradite to Spain the terrorist al-Qaeda funder Mamoun Darkazanli, indicted in the Madrid bombings, as this violated the German constitution (*Eyes passim*) – German lawyers are debating how best to enact EU laws.

In contrast the British government, having pushed the EAW through parliament without proper debate, is now further endangering its citizens by adopting Trials in Absentia two years before the official date, allowing suspects to be extradited without even *prima facie* evidence for crimes that do not exist in their own country.

The job of EU president, EU foreign minister, innumerable EU officials...

EAW victim Andrew Symeou (*see p30*) is currently in a Greek jail after British courts failed to protect him from extradition and law lords refused even to consider his case although it violated the most basic principles of British justice.

Germany, however, has not yet adopted Trials in Absentia and has imposed safeguards before allowing any extraditions under the EAW, with guarantees that those arrested have a fair trial in the country demanding extradition; that the crime exists in Germany and that they can serve any sentence in a German jail.

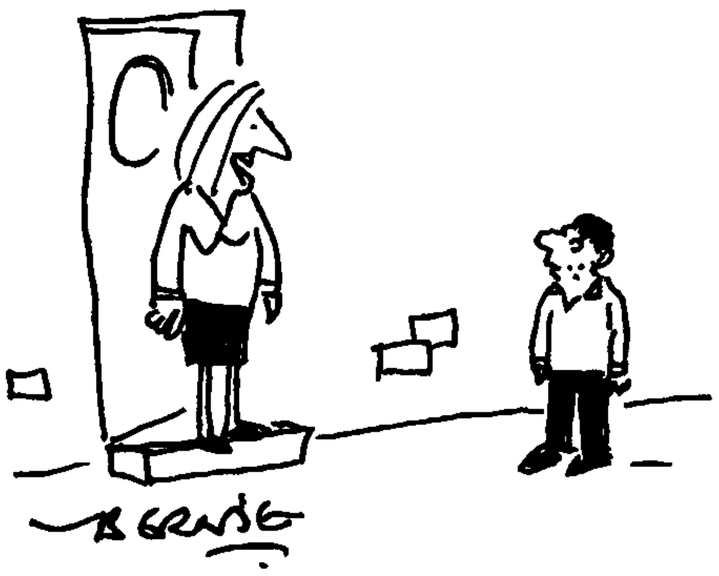
Thanks to the British government's manic determination to please the EU and abandon legal safeguards, innocent people have already been extradited to serve long jail sentences, despite lack of evidence.

Although happy to extradite innocent people, the British government blocked the extradition of French Islamic terrorist Rachid Ramda for 10 years despite his part in a 1995 Paris bombing, claiming he would have had an unfair trial in France – though the European arrest warrant was set up to combat terrorism.

HAVING ignored warnings by the House of Commons' EU scrutiny committee not to use taxpayers' money to promote EU propaganda, European civil servants are again meddling in individual countries' party politics.

The European commission is spending another £1.5m in an "information campaign" to try to win a yes vote in next month's second referendum in Ireland on the Lisbon Treaty.

Massive billboard advertising across Ireland, cinema advertising directed at Irish women and young voters, meetings, sessions and websites are all cited as part of the commission's campaign.



"Off you go then – and don't go talking to strange children"

EDUCASHUN NEWZ

THE hedge fund-backed Academy sponsor Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) has a new chairman: Conservative party co-treasurer Stanley Fink.

The ARK charity was founded by Fink's fellow multi-millionaire Arpad Busson and is funded by an annual gala dinner for super-rich financiers. With six academies already under its control, plus plans for six more, ARK is responsible for the education of 10,000 children. As reported in *Eye* 1220, the organisation prides itself on bringing "the same principles and disciplines" to running its schools as it would to running a business.

Stanley Fink, the former chief exec of Man Group, is a big Tory donor and was recently appointed co-treasurer of the party to help raise funds to fight the election. He was already on the board of governors at ARK's Burlington Danes Academy in Hammersmith, where English, maths and science are now taught in the Stanley Fink Building. As he took up the chairmanship of the charity he pontificated: "If you can offer a child a good education and good health you can change their life."

Fink also has his own hedge fund, International Standard Asset Management (ISAM), which is based in the Caymans for tax purposes (see *Eye* 1229), thereby avoiding contributing to, er, education and health for all the country's children.

A STATE-of-the-art replacement for Salford's Walkden High School was given the go ahead this month as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme – on a site just yards away from the heavily polluted A580 East Lancs Road.

Plans for the school even acknowledge "the impact of poor air quality resulting from the proximity of the site to the A580" and the "noise pollution". The solution? Er, don't open the windows!

Unlike the newly built schools in Exeter a couple of years ago, which were told to open windows in the winter to deal with sweltering temperatures caused by "snagging" problems in the heating (*Eye* 1181), in Salford all windows facing the road will remain firmly closed to stop kids and staff being gassed - or to "adequately mitigate the impact of air pollution on end users", as the planning document puts it.

The school will "include a fully sealed faêade [sic] to reduce the impact". In other words, pupils and staff will be sealed in. This sounds ideal… until break, that is, when kids will no doubt be issued with state-of-the-art gas masks before venturing into the playground…

"She was a very intelligent lady. She could speak four or five different languages – German, Polreallyish, and Italian and French I think as well."

York Press

Letters

Family values

Sir,

Re: the Daily Mail and the Rule of Optimism (Street of Shame, Eye 1244). As the co-definer of the "rule of optimism" in 1983, following a five-year study of child protection in law, health and social work, I suppose that it is rather flattering to find that it is still being identified 25 years later – and it is nice to think that the Daily Mail can see some point to sociological research.

However, I am rather fed-up with the way that it has turned into a catchphrase and drifted a long way from the quite precise definition that we gave it.

Specifically, this is not a euphemism for "wimpish social workers", nor is it something that organisations choose to apply, or not, as it suits them. It is, in fact, the way that the culture and practices of all public agencies involved in child protection manage the Morton's Fork in which they are placed by the Daily Mail and similar interested parties: intervene early and you are child snatchers, intervene late and you are hopeless simpletons.

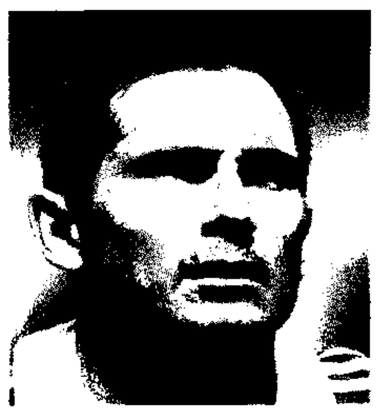
As my colleagues and I pointed out, in a democratic society that values family privacy over child protection, the inevitable cost is the occasional death of a child. It's time we were all a bit more grown up about this.

ROBERT DINGWALL, Professor and Director, Institute for Science and Society, University of Nottingham,

Via email.

Lookalike

Lampard



Kafka

Sir,

I couldn't help noticing that the well-known Chelsea midfielder Frank Kafka looks uncannily like he has metamorphosed from the iconic writer Franz Lampard.

Yours,
LANCE FENNELL,

Via email.

Getting the needle

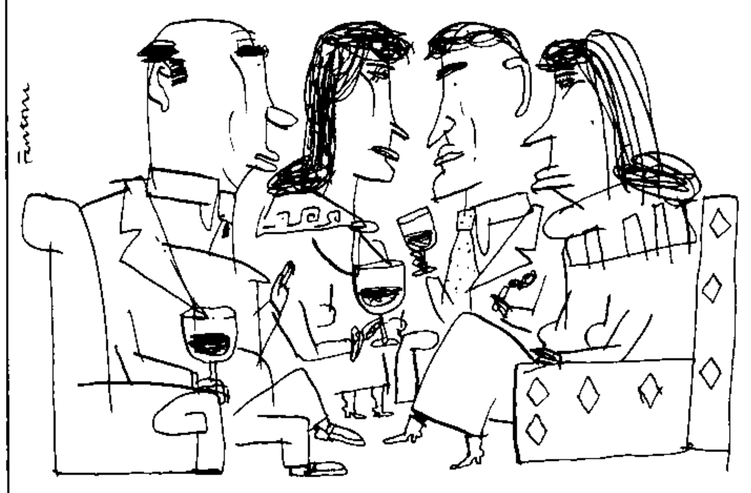
Sir,

Re: Tom Karacs' letter (Pedant's Corner, Eye 1244). There are complex and interesting discussions to be had about why a malaria vaccine is not available yet. The letter gives one good scientific reason, your original "number crunch" (p11, Eye 1243) may allude to another, which is the economic question of how the necessary research is paid for. But it is a bit dismaying to see a valid and important debate labelled (along with your usual classics bores and the excellent Bash Street Kids) as mere pedantry! Come on: I thought you were beginning to pay some attention to science, facts and stuff following your long and shameful MMR embarrassment.

JON BUTTERWORTH,

Via email.

Scenes You Seldom See



"We have finally persuaded Emma to give up her place at Oxford and train as a professional footballer"

Evangelic revelation

Sir,

Re: Satanic Panic (In the Back, Eye 1244). It is odd that your item on the twentieth anniversary of the satanic child abuse scandals failed completely to mention an important, if not the most important, driver of the panic, that is, the deranged beliefs of evangelical Christian social workers, who had a vested interest in promoting fear of Satan. Yet elsewhere in PE, drawing attention to hidden or not-so-hidden agendas is de rigeur.

BARRY THORPE,

Via email.

Sir,

In a recent edition you once again lazily confused Paganism with devil worship. It was in one of your police report satires. Sadly, I don't care that much and consequently can't be bothered to check which one. Suffice to say, Pagans do not worship Beelzebub, they worship trees.

Yours in blessed peace,
FFINLO COSTAIN,

Via email.

With river view

Sir,

In the article "You've been Tesco'd" (In the Back, Eye 1244), the allotments in Hadleigh, Suffolk, are mentioned. In the planning application Tesco referred to these allotments as "intrusive and having an adverse effect on the otherwise visual amenity of the river walk". The same description would not, of course, apply to a large supermarket, painted pink, with a huge car park and raised access road, lit 24 hours a day, beside the river!

Yours sincerely,
JANE HAYLOCK,

Via email.

"God, this anti-aging cream is like sooo like ohmygod!!!"

Nelson column

Sir,

Re: Nooks & Corners, Eye 1243. Piloti needs to a) get out more and b) check his facts more.

Contrary to Piloti's silly assertion that Pendle council has "allowed the steady degradation of the town's fabric", over the last few years we have actually invested some £50m in regeneration, including improving housing and other buildings in our towns of Nelson, Colne, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Earby.

As for the "scandals concerning the demolition of fine buildings", here's a photo [supplied] of the current external appearance of the former Palace Theatre. It is not a "fine building" by any stretch of the imagination. In fact Piloti has got something right, the only external features with any merit were lost about thirty years ago, and the building has presented a grim and unwelcoming face to the town ever since. To date, no-one has thought it worthy of listed building status, it is not in a conservation area, and it has not fulfilled any theatrical or cultural function, other than bingo, for the last thirty-odd years, i.e. a third of its life!

Nevertheless, Pendle council has agreed to allow the Theatres' Trust some time to investigate whether a sustainable new use could be found for the building. At the same time, as an "intelligent, responsible local authority" we have undertaken not to demolish the building and will await the decision of the secretary of state as to whether the building should be given listed status.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN COOKSON,
Executive Director (Regeneration),

Via email.

Ring: the changes

Sir,

I agree that Gergiev's Ring was not as good as it might have been (Music & Musicians, Eye 1243). The day-glo lighting was horrible. The statues probably needed the elbow-room of the Mariinsky's stage rather than been cooped up on our own cosy ROH. I would even admit that some of the singers struggled (though Elena Nebera's Gutrune and Mikhail Petrentko's Hagen were revelations).

However, the reason Gergiev –as you say – "gets away" with it (and why, my friends, many people to whom I spoke that week thought the show worth every penny) is on account of his mastery of music: the one thing that truly mattered. Not all of his ideas worked, it is true, but when he was good he was very, very good. His Funeral March – so often a ponderous irritation in the hands of lesser conductors – had me going back to Wagner's score

As for the price, though I dearly pitied the stuffed shirts in the stalls who got a good rinsing, we had excellent seats for £320 apiece, which worked out at about 35p a minute. Which is not a bad tariff for a collect-call directly from the Meister himself.

Yours faithfully,
M WITTICH,

Wivenhoe, Essex.

Sir,

Having just read Music & Musicians (Eye 1244), it's very clear you need to focus more on the day job.

I discovered (with a great yawn) that Scottish teams didn't do as well as expected in the recent world pipe band championships (not the "bagpipe" championships as you say) and that some Middle Eastern countries are quite keen on pipe bands too.

Accordingly, Greece should always be top of the medal table at the Olympics and England should always be ranked No.1 in cricket. Get a grip! The ramblings of Phil Space and John Bull should not to be encouraged.

Kind regards,
ERIC SULLIVAN,

Via email.

Mohan moan

Sir,

What was the Eye expecting to find when it unearthed Dominic Mohan's old columns for the Sun? (Hackwatch, Eye 1244) – a disquisition on the Logico Tractatus? Apart from the (rather brave) one calling Cheryl Cole a thug, they were all pieces of whimsy obviously not intended as serious journalism. If the idea was to show that Mohan isn't an intellectual, then the Eye should have avoided printing a meditation on Ally Ross's haemorrhoids on the facing page. Could it be that the ascent of a comprehensive lad like Mohan is somehow irksome to the public school wankers that write your organ?

I think we should be told.

Yours,
MARTIN DAULBY,

Via email.

Lookalike

Lourdes Virgin

Swinton

Sir,

I recently visited the Basilica of the Rosary at Lourdes. I wonder whether any of your readership has been struck, as was I, by the extraordinary likeness between its mosaic of the Virgin Mary and the actress Tilda Swinton?

Yours etc,
ROBERT STIRLING,

Via email.

Brown stuff

Sir,

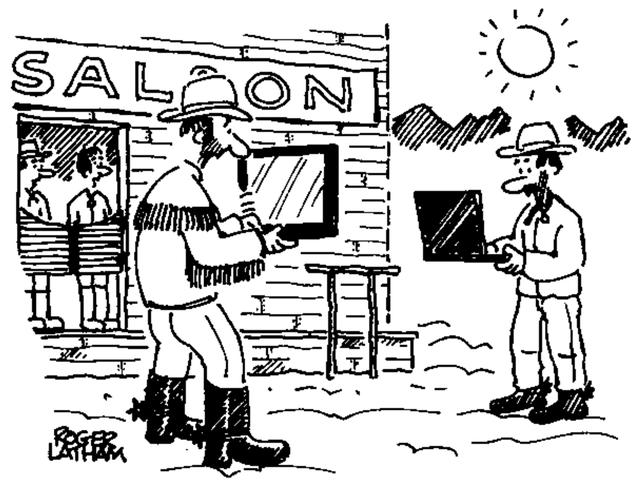
Presumably you'll have thousands of readers pointing out that the quote you attributed to Gwyneth Paltrow in Pseuds Corner (Eye 1244) had nothing to do with Gwyneth herself but was actually from a spoof series in Vanity Fair.

Given that this series is not only derived from the Eye's Diaries but is actually written by the same person, I'm surprised that no one at the Eye spotted it.

It's also pretty daft of whoever sent it in not to have realised. Perhaps Craig Brown is just too good.

Yours,
BOB WOFFINDEN,

Via email.



"They both claim to have the fastest broadband in the West!"

Rogue Mail male

Sir,

The comments you quote from Richard Littlejohn's December 2006 column about the Suffolk murders were not made six months after the murders (Street of Shame, Eye 1244). The bodies of the five victims were discovered between 2 December 2006 and 12 December 2006. In my view, this makes his comments about the victims even more repugnant.

My subscription remains firmly intact.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF POOLE,

Via email.

Bitter Lennon

Sir,

I would like to compliment the PR guy who managed to get the BBC to launch its "Beatles season" with hours of free plugs just as the Fab Four's albums are being remastered and re-released. Do they still need even more money and should the BBC be doing free advertising? Whilst I have no objection to the Fab Four's tuneful ditties, that is all they are and it is just pretentious nonsense to compare them to Schubert and Mozart as some have done. I always think one of the better definitions of irony was when John Lennon wrote, "Imagine no possessions" and then left a fortune of £180 million.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH SCHOLLICK,

Via email.

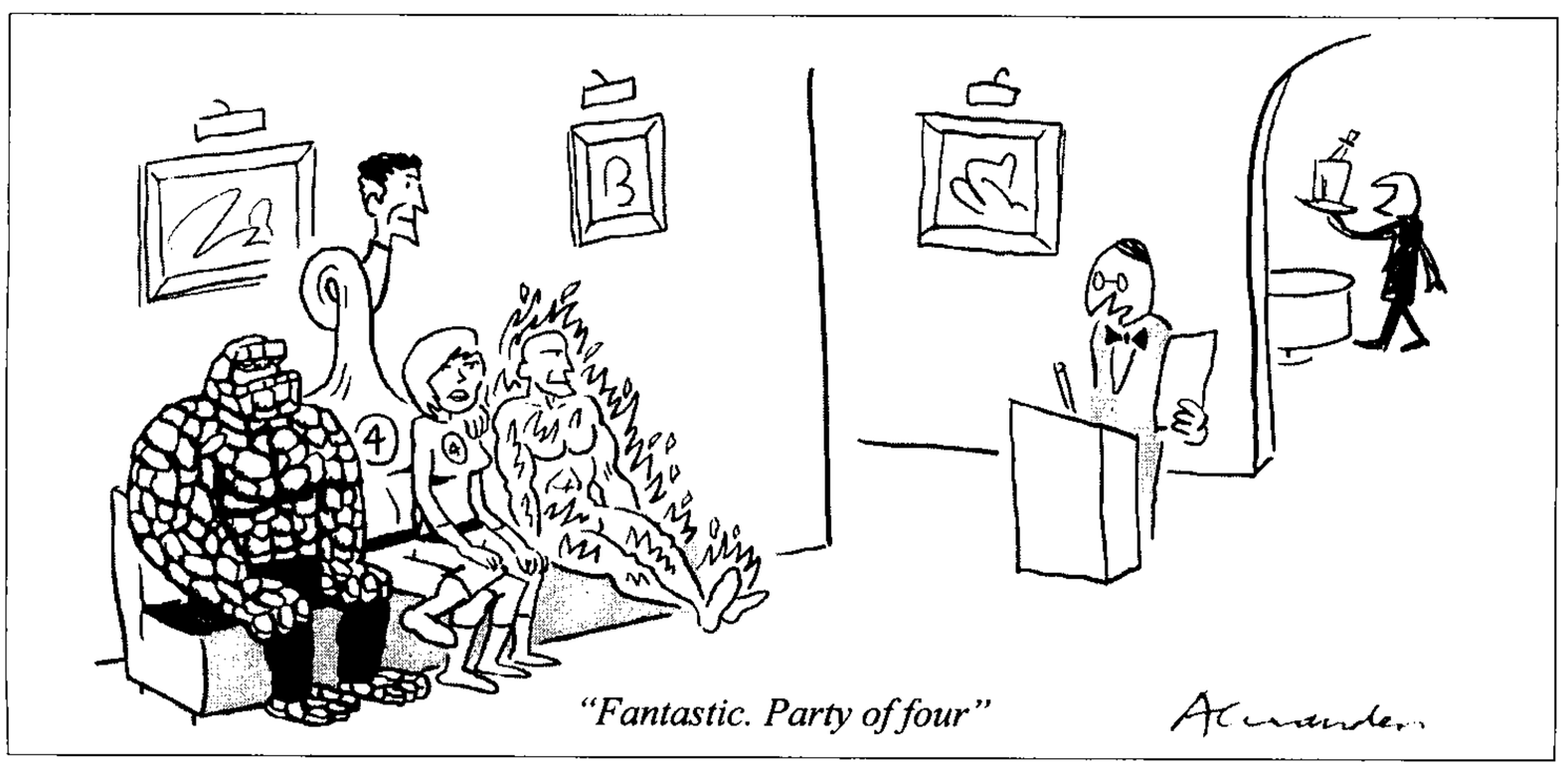
Slipped Diski

Sir,

Re: your review of Jenny Diski's book (Literary Review, Eye 1244). Bollocks! The 60s were great. You old fogies didn't inhale. You lot will never understand the impact of that decade on music, fashion, art, design, photography, film, the inception of the green movement, Amnesty, etc etc. The influence is seen to this day, examples too numerous to mention so stop sneering.

Cheers!
DAVE GEE

Southport.



"Fantastic. Party of four" Alexander

Pedantry Corner

...Mr Mooney is correct to claim that General McChrystal looks like one of the popular comedy duo the Chuckle Brothers (Letters, 1244). However, his assertion that it is Paul Elliot is wrong. It is actually Paul's brother and the other half of the comedy duo, Barry Chuckle, who is photographed. To quote the brothers in question: "Oh Dear, Oh Dear, Oh Dear!"

KEN SEARLE.

...Far from being a mistake or slip-up occasioning unseemly mirth, Dean Jones' query as to the location of Moses' Ark is quite proper in two ways. Firstly, Moses is so deeply connected with the Ark of the Covenant, said to contain the very tablets of the law he has taken the trouble to preserve from Mount Sinai together with Aaron's rod and a pot of manna, that to describe it as "his" seems reasonable enough. Second, the question Mr Jones poses – "Where's his Ark?" – continues to be asked, and purportedly though not convincingly answered, to this day by many, as it has been ever since the Romans absent-mindedly mislaid it sometime at or after the late first century AD. Further confirmation of the above is found in the fact that in a number of places (for example, the Second Book of Chronicles, Chapter 5) the Ark of the Covenant is referred to simply as "The Ark".

THE REVD CANON
GEOFFREY RAVALDE.

...Re Literary Review (Eye 1244). My dear, the footman in Evelyn Waugh's Bargshead would ***not*** *have been sacked for referring to "writing paper" rather than "notepaper". He* ***would*** *have been sacked, quite rightly, for getting it the other way round. It's a very* ***common*** *mistake.*

ENA B. COCKERELL.

Pseudo names

...I note with some sadness that there were no Pseudo Names in the last issue of your organ. Could this be so long, farewell and goodbye?
I hope not!

AL VEDERZANE

...We have just scanned your organ (Eye 1244) from cover to cover but no Pseudo names could we find. Alas and alack bring them back!

B. REFT,
D. SPARING,
P. T. FULL,
N. SAD.

...Thank goodness you've come to your senses and terminated that silly escapade. It was starting to get under my skin.

DERMOT OLOGIST

... Wasn't the very first Pseudo Name sent in in September?

ANNA VERSERY

...Looking forward to the death of your column.

PAUL BEARER

"We're very lucky, really, with our poltergeist"

Photo opportunity

Sir,

I was very interested to read Remote Controller's criticism of the quiz "Shooting Stars" (Eye TV, 1244) as mistakenly relying on "the belief that something which wasn't very funny the first time will become hilarious if you do it often enough". Is there any chance you could furnish an instructive example from your archives of a running gag which, in contrast, has managed to maintain and enhance its wit, relevance and charm over the years?

Yours faithfully,
GREG FEDORENKO,

Via email.

● More repetitive, er... running joke – see p. 22. Ed.

Sir,

I don't know what Remote Controller's idea of humour is (perhaps the side-splitting "My Family"?) but the new series of "Shooting Stars" (Eye TV, 1244) has me crying with laughter every time – but then I am I only a childish 55 year old.

Regards etc,
MIKE CLARK,

Via email.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"Hussey was struggling to come to terms with the vagrancies in the wicket."
PAUL ALLOTT, Sky Sports
(Dr Phil Watson)

"This is knitting while Rome burns."
YASMIN ALIBHAI BROWN, Any Questions, Radio Four
(Jane Kelly)

"...in particular China and India – I'm not singling them out."
ED MILIBAND, Today, Radio Four
(Dave Gay)

"He [Damiano Cunego] literally tore the legs off his teammate, Gilberto Simone, in the 2004 Giro d'Italia."
DAVID HARMON, Eurosport
(Nick Kenway)

"He has been the victim of his own downfall."
DC DAVID BEBB, West Midlands Police, Birmingham Mail website
(Neil Elkes)

Michael Jackson death was homocide says LA coroner

Telegraph online

Letter from Tashkent

from Our Own Correspondent

AS winter approaches in Uzbekistan, at least we can bask in the warm glow of good deeds by our president, Islam Karimov. This is handy, as more conventional forms of heating will be hard to come by: most of our gas goes to Germany to earn hard currency.

In fact nothing is wasted here. Instead of letting our water run into the Aral Sea, our wise leader diverts it to the cotton fields where our farmers are paid buttons for the crop the government sells abroad at much higher prices. Then school kids and university students are conscripted every summer to pick the crop for even less than the farmers earn.

We aren't always appreciative enough of our leader's economic foresight. In 1994, after reforms by Washington advisors led to hyperinflation and a massive devaluation, Karimov re-denominated the currency and introduced the new Som, worth a thousand of the old. Fifteen years of economic failure later, and 1000 Soms are worth all of 40p. As this is our biggest banknote, we need to carry bags full of Soms just to go shopping. Still, at least this helps identify black market currency dealers (who offer 50 percent more per dollar than banks) so they can be arrested, shaken down for a bribe and released. For serious bribes to set up a business or get someone out of prison, only $100 bills will do.

Karimov has been a staunch nationalist ever since Moscow told him he could be. As Gorbachev's viceroy in Tashkent at the end of empire, he was well placed to write a constitution allowing the president two five-year terms. He then organised a referendum to extend his first term for an additional five years. Then he ran for a second term, at the end of which he changed the constitution to make presidential terms seven years. Then he forgot to hold an election, hanging around for another year before submitting to the people's will and winning a majority even North Korea's Kim Jong Il might envy.

Of course he has made concessions to secure such popularity: the product of a Soviet orphanage, he had to take lessons in Uzbek. And the once committed atheist now sponsors mosques (may Allah take pity on anyone who tries to open one that hasn't been authorized).

Continuity and change mark Karimov's 20 years at the helm: we still have a KGB, but now it's called the NSS. And the dissident Khusnuddin Olimov was allegedly boiled alive. No wonder we're the perfect venue for the CIA's extraordinary rendition programme which, like our participation in the Iraq war, has guaranteed us an easy ride from the Americans.

Of course we have our own terrorists. For a while, anyone who disagreed with Karimov was seen as one. But now that much water (and blood) have flowed under the bridge since that misunderstanding in Andijan three years ago left 1,000 men, women and children dead, it is time to let bygones be bygones. Not that there are many left to be bygones or opposition sympathisers. The president's economic stewardship means a huge proportion of our able bodied population has to go abroad to find work.

From Moscow to Miami, St Petersburg Russia to St Petersburg Florida, Uzbeks, often with doctorates, are doing the lowest kitchen and hotel jobs, and the money they send home keeps our new General Motors plant busy making Daewoo cars. That's why a surprisingly large number of those wearing cartoon character costumes in Florida's Disney World are Uzbek. They do not have to speak. They just smile and wave their hands around to order – a fitting symbol of our Mickey Mouse country.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "My days of eating people are over," a cannibal named Sumanto told reporters at a mental rehabilitation centre in Central Java. "I relish meat of all types, so long as it's cooked, but I won't eat people any more. I admit that I dug up an old woman's body and ate her. It was a cheap and tasty meal and I relished it. She was delicious, but while I was in prison, I realised that what I was really longing for was the taste of love. Yet how can I describe it when I've never experienced it, never tasted it? I want to be accepted back into normal village life, but that will not be easy. I'm depressed, because people have said so many unnecessary and hurtful things about me, even though all I eat nowadays is water and spinach. Meat is definitely nicer than vegetables, but I could make do with grass. I would relish it. It's healthy, and I could braise or stir-fry it to make it taste good. I am a reformed man, and I will strive to get the villagers to open up their hearts and accept me again."

However, his next-door neighbour was dubious about the prospect of Sumanto's return. "That corpse eater? I will never forget the stench of death coming from his hut, and the sight of a bowl of yellow human flesh drenched in soy sauce. There'll be chaos if he comes back. He was a bad-tempered man who stole our rice. I don't want to end up as his dinner." *(Courier-Mail (Queensland), 20/7/09. Spotter: Roger Martin)*

– ● –

● *"We're thrilled to receive first prize, because flatulence is a serious social problem," Paul O'Leary of the Shreddies lingerie company told a press conference in Loughborough. "It sounds funny, but it's really embarrassing for people with the problem. There's been a guy banned from bingo halls, and a plane has even been grounded because of it. We came up with the idea of flatulence filtering underwear two years ago, and starting selling it last year. Unlike most healthcare underwear on the market, our boxer shorts and pants are flattering and trendy. No one else is producing anything like them. They're mostly designed for men, but our women's range is proving popular too. We're hoping to get the filter registered with the NHS soon, so people can get it on prescription."*

Earlier, a judge at the Look Good Feel Good awards had praised "the innovative design of the product. Any offensive odours pass through the inner panels into the carbon filter sewn into the back panel and gusset, which has a chemical structure to filter out and store the gas. The underwear is discreet, stylish, and encourages social confidence. It's a fantastic innovation, a good-quality, much-needed product that could save many a marriage, and we're delighted to award it first prize." (Leicester Mercury, 17/9/09. Spotter: Alan Helliwell)

– ● –

● "The government have been warned," Gautam Sapkota told a crowd of onlookers who had gathered to hear him speak in Dharan, East Nepal, "but they do not listen. My ability to converse with crows is famous throughout the world. Last year, many of you saw me gather thousands of crows at the Tundikhel Open Ground in Kathmandu, and make conversation with them. It is clearly time that my name and my ability were enlisted in the prestigious Guinness Book of Records. The government

should pay for this to happen, because it will bring prestige to our country, but when I approached the Foreign Ministry, they turned a deaf ear. Therefore, I am now issuing an ultimatum to them.

"The government have three months to get my name registered in the book. Otherwise, I shall order thousands of crows to gather at Tribhuwan International Airport and bring all air services to a halt. This is not an idle threat. I have the power to cause chaos and paralyse the economy, and I am prepared to use it." *(Deccan Chronicle, 19/9/09. Spotter: Chris Spurr)*

"I couldn't hand in my homework... my dog ate my teacher"

From The Message Boards

Members of the online community respond to the major issues of the day...

Beatles 40th anniversary

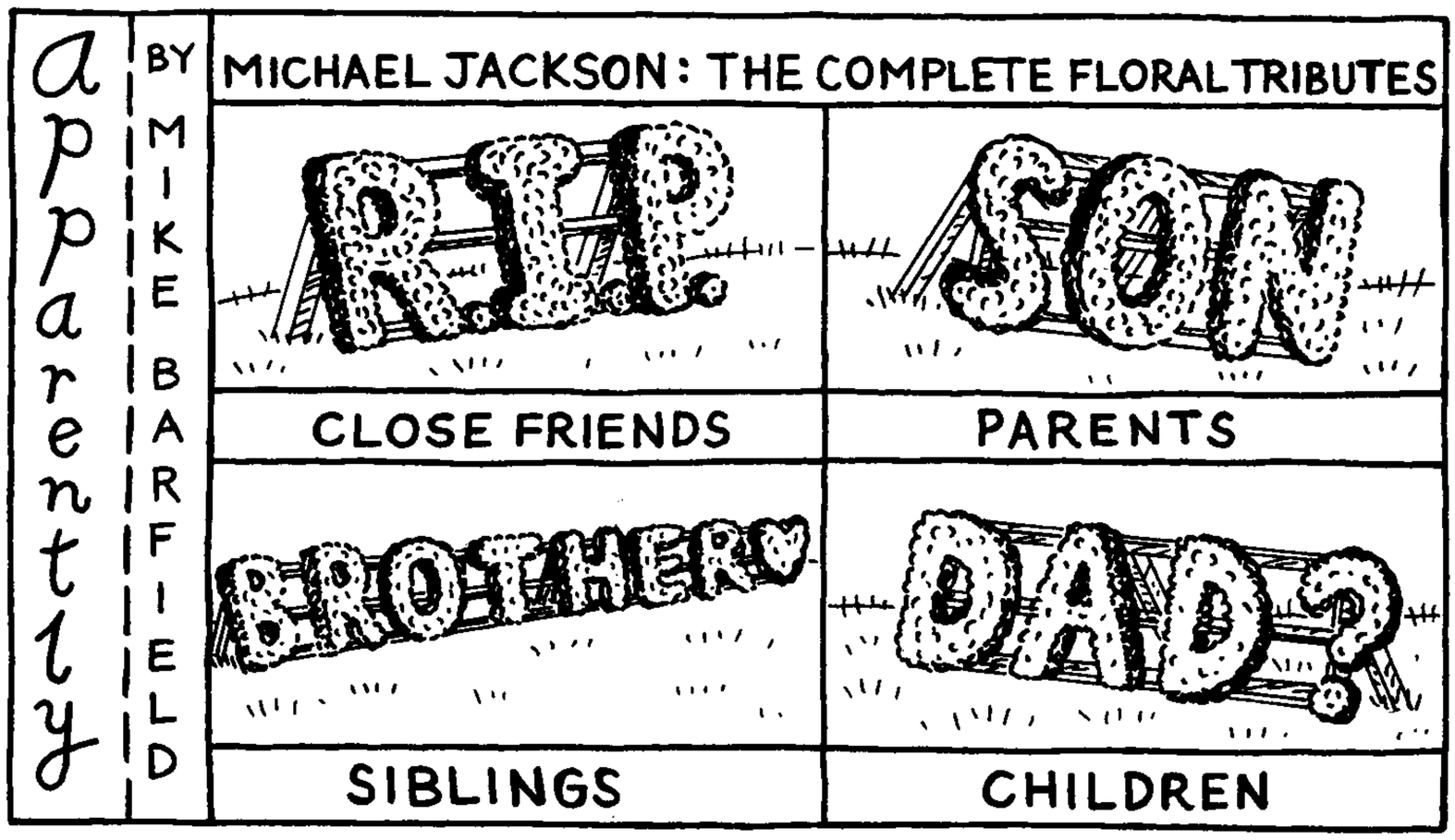
John Lennon did no more than declare himself more popular than Jesus Christ and proclaim The Word (Rubber Soul 1:6). Inasmuch and insofar as he did so do, then he did no more than the false prophets against whom Saint Paul exhorted believers to Preach the Word (Second Epistle to Timothy 4:2). Then the blasphemer Lennon did no more than offer an Apple to his followers, and so mock the teachings of the Lord, which are guarded by the true believer as the apple of his eye (Proverbs 7:2). – ***Mr_Salmon***

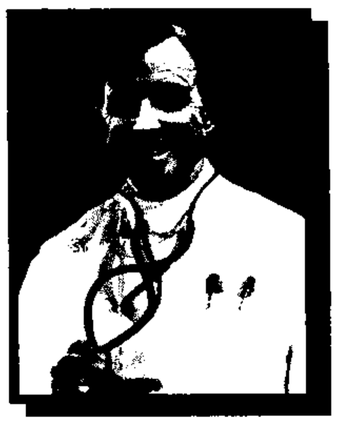
The new mono Beatles box claims to "faithfully recreate the original LP releases down to the finest detail including inner sleeves" and "original LP labels". Oh really? The label of Please Please Me ("© 2009"!) lists tracks 1-14 (!!) and is riddled with schoolboy errors too numerous to list here (no " Dick James Mus. Co." etc, etc). Turning in disgust to Revolver, I discovered another litany of errors ("DOCTOR ROBERT" instead of "DR." etc) and a "faithful recreation" of an EMITEX inner sleeve made from paper that bears no resemblance to the type used in July 1966 (when the records were packed for August release). I would laugh if it weren't such a joke. See my website seriouscollectorsonly.co.uk for a full assessment. – ***The_Music_Man***

Contrary to the maxim, I remember the sixties and I WAS there – the only person to be arrested during the Beatles' concert on the Apple roof. My pamphlet explains the circumstances, and the 40-year campaign of police harassment that followed. – ***Edwin***

edwin that beagles leaflitz mint bruv – ***Zaks_bak***

The Moors Murders began in 1963, between the Chatterley ban and the Beatles' first LP. Scum. – ***Rot_in_hell_Myra***





PRIME MINISTERIAL DECREE NO. 53

From the Clinic of the Supreme Leader

A certificate of Mental and Physical Fitness

We, the undersigned, having carried out a full and exhaustive examination of the mental and physical state of the Supreme Leader, confirm that, contrary to the ceaseless tittle-tattle and malicious rumour-mongering of the jackals of the Murdochite-Rothermerist press, Comrade Brown is entirely sane and is in no way suffering from any of the following:

DEPRESSION: The Supreme Leader is euphoric over the success of his efforts to revive the British economy. In recent days he has been seen on at least two occasions to give a faint smile on being told that unemployment had scarcely reached 3 million.

DELUSIONS: We could find no evidence that the Supreme Leader was in any way subject to a delusional syndrome. His granting of retrospective pardons to figures from the Second World War might suggest that he sees himself as a divine figure who can intervene in history to right wrongs with which he had nothing to do but the fact that he has refused to pardon ex-Comrade Blair for **his** war crimes suggests a person of sound mental stability. His repeated assurances that he would win the next election with a large majority was, in our view, convincing evidence that he retains a secure grip on reality.

MANIC OUTBURSTS: Once again, we could find no evidence of any hypomanic disorder, apart from a very minor incident where he threw a heavy stapler at Mr Darling, shouting "You bastard!". It is fair to say that Comrade Brown himself has no recollection of this incident, the evidence for which is based solely on the fact that Comrade Darling appears to have a number of staples embedded in his forehead.

PARANOIA: We can confirm that any suggestion that Comrade Brown has been displaying the classic symptoms of paranoia is entirely baseless. His repeated assertions that "everyone" hates and despises him, and that his colleagues are all plotting to remove him from power are, in our opinion, based on 100 percent solid evidence and cannot therefore be dismissed as paranoid delusions.

MEDICATION: We found no evidence that the Supreme Leader is in any way reliant on special pharmaceutical aid, apart from taking a number of nutritional stimulants designed to assist his concentration in carrying out the many onerous tasks involved in leading his country.

These include: Anti-bonkerzam *(5 milligrams)*, Equine tranquilisers *(5 milibands)* and Hallucigon *(double dosage to be taken at half-hourly intervals)*.

Signed,

Comrade Doctor Lord Mandelson

Hon Professor of Psychiatric Medicine at the Alastair Campbell Research Institute, the University of Tourettes, Burnley.

A MESSAGE FROM COMRADE STRAW, COMMISSAR FOR JUSTICE

In light of the temporary indisposition of the Supreme Leader, it falls to me to pay tribute on behalf of the nation to Comrade Wogan who, for many generations, has inspired the toilers by hand and by brain as they set out for the fields and factories in the early morning.

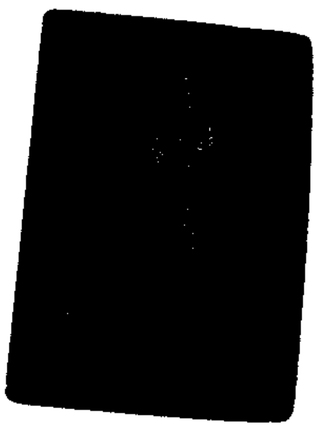
Let us in particular commend Comrade Wogan for his wise decision to step down from his post, saying, as he put it, "I want to go while people still love me and not be forced out because everyone hates me".

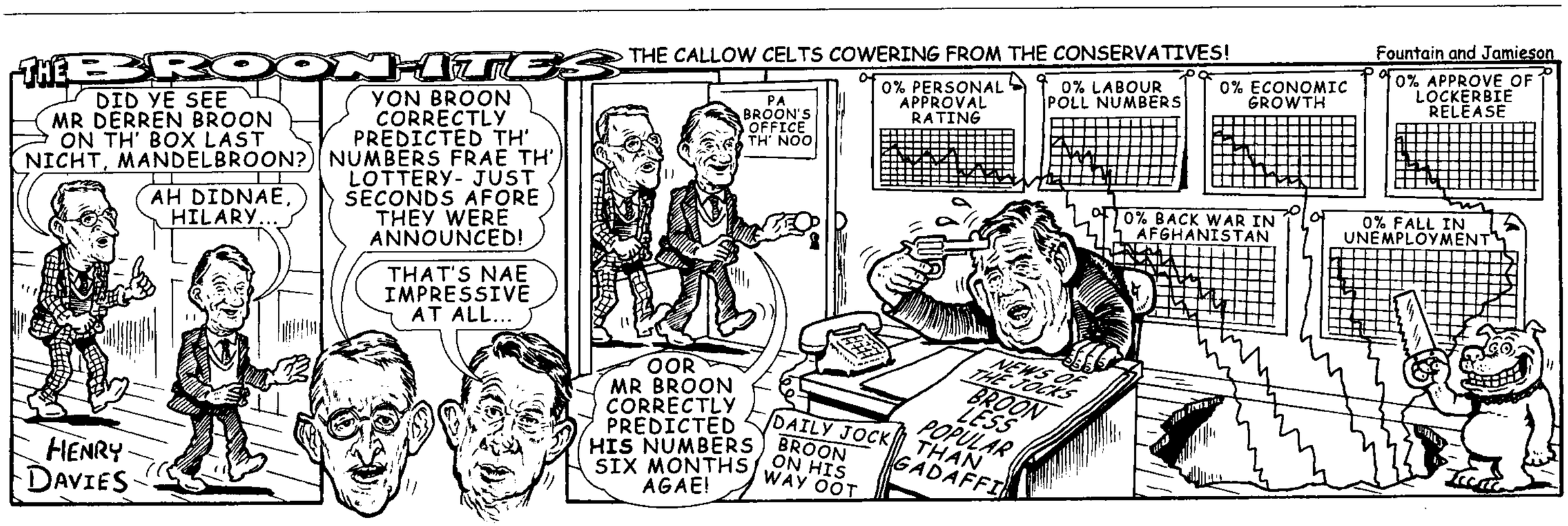
If only more people in prominent positions in public life were as sensible as Comrade Wogan.

Comrade J. Straw

"You don't have to be mad to work here, but it helps!"

Taken from The Little Brown Book, Chapter 94, Jocular Asides Which Prove That The Supreme Leader Is Supremely Not Bonkers




THE BROON-ITES
THE CALLOW CELTS COWERING FROM THE CONSERVATIVES!
Fountain and Jamieson
DID YE SEE MR DERREN BROON ON TH' BOX LAST NICHT, MANDELBROON?
AH DIDNAE, HILARY...
YON BROON CORRECTLY PREDICTED TH' NUMBERS FRAE TH' LOTTERY- JUST SECONDS AFORE THEY WERE ANNOUNCED!
THAT'S NAE IMPRESSIVE AT ALL...
HENRY DAVIES
PA BROON'S OFFICE TH' NOO
OOR MR BROON CORRECTLY PREDICTED HIS NUMBERS SIX MONTHS AGAE!
0% PERSONAL APPROVAL RATING
0% LABOUR POLL NUMBERS
0% ECONOMIC GROWTH
0% APPROVE OF LOCKERBIE RELEASE
0% BACK WAR IN AFGHANISTAN
0% FALL IN UNEMPLOYMENT
DAILY JOCK
BROON ON HIS WAY OOT
NEWS OF THE SOCKS
BROON LESS POPULAR THAN GADAFFI

PARENTS TO BE VETTED 'BEFORE TAKING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL'

by **Nanette State**

A NEW independent body appointed by the Home Office, the Supervisory Parental Standards Agency, headed by a senior civil servant will enforce strict new controls on parents who want to take their children to school.

Shock

Said Sir Peter Dimme, chair of the new agency, "Our primary aim is to protect vulnerable children. Our primary aim is to protect vulnerable children. Just keep saying this whatever they ask. Oh, sorry, I shouldn't have read that bit out."

He continued, "Any adult volunteering to escort his or her children to their place of education should clearly undergo intensive waterboarding at a secret Guantanamo-style vetting centre in order to force them to confess that they are paedophiles."

Sir Peter was then taken away by two men in white coats.

Electric shock

In response to criticism of the new regulations, the government has announced another new agency to vet the suitability of those appointed to chair vetting agencies.

Said new chair Lady Daphne Hare-Brain, "You're obviously a paedo, aren't you? I can tell at once you know."

On other pages

Those agencies in full... p2-94.

That Fat Duck Menu In Full

Pee Soup
Dressed Crap

– ❋ –

Grilled WC Bass
Baked Turdbot
Down-the-pan Fried Oysters with Shit-ake Mushrooms

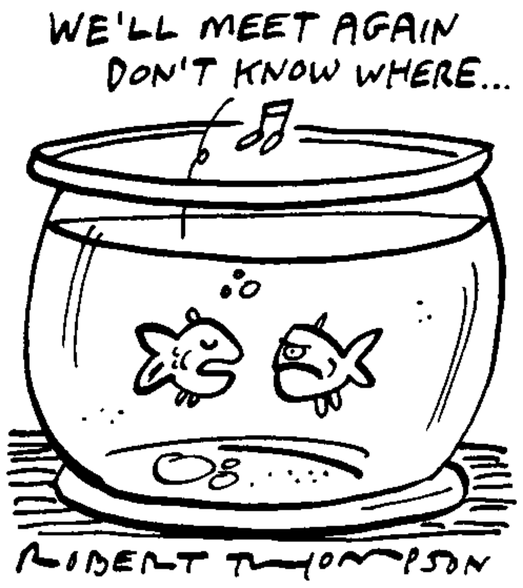
– ❋ –

Sewage Pudding
or
Toilet Roll

– ❋ –

To drink:
Poo-willy Fumé 2009
(We get the idea. Ed.)

Now wash your hands, please



A slobbering sexist xenophobe who wouldn't get a column today

by Dr Johnson (no relation)

Sir, it must be apparent to any man who contemplates the figure of Mr. Boris Johnson that such a man would never be granted employment on a respectable 18th century organ of opinion such as the Gentleman's Magazine.

For consider not only his unseemly and adulterous dalliance with divers ladies of the town but also reflect upon his opinions of picaninnies, the good citizens of Liverpool and the gentlefolk of Portsmouth which are scarcely those of a classically educated gentleman but more resemble those of an illiterate hansom cab driver who would have all persons who have offended him for whatever reason taken to Tyburn and strung up like murderers or common felons on the public gallows before a baying mob claiming it is the only language

(continued 1794.)

GLENDA SLAGG

Fleet Street's Original WAG!!!

■THREE cheers for England's Lady Footballers!??!? This supersquad of goal-scoring gals have put this country on the map!?!! Now I've heard it all!?! You can keep your Spud-faced Roonies and your Gormless Gerrards – give me [Fill in name] and [Fill in other name] any day !??! Forget the beautiful game – let's hear it for the beautiful dames!!?! All together now: Three Lionesses on my shirt!!?!!

■WOMEN footballers – don't make me laugh??!?? OK, so they got to the European Cup Final. Who cares?? Betcha can't name me a single one of them!! See?? Told you!?! So ladies, leave it to Spud-face Roonie and Gorgeous Gerrard!!?! The soccer sisters are as interesting to watch as men staying at home knitting!?!! Take a tip from Auntie Glenda [Fill in name] and [Fill in other name] – it's three Lions on the shirt, Ms Stoopid, and not Lionesses!!?!

■PUHLEASE no Mr BBC man, not Chris Evans for Breakfast?!?? This four-eyed, ginger-haired egomaniac will never fill Tel's king-size slippers!?!! What's Cheesy Chris ever done to deserve Radio 2's top hot seat!??!! He's an irritating, juvenile and from now my snap, crackle and pop will be going soggy!!?! Ughh!! Call me a TOG if you like – that's Turn Off Ginger!?! Geddit!??!

■CALL me a TOG!!! That's Turn On Ginger, geddit!!?! Thank Gawd the Beeb have given us Classy Chris and we've seen the last of Tedious Tel!!?! From now on it's snap, crackle and pop all the way with the wisecracking wonderkid instead of Mr Blarney, the winking wag in a wig!!?!

■HERE THEY ARE – Glenda's Harvest Festival Hunks!?!

● **Heston Blumenthal.** OK, you make everyone sick, but not me!?!! I'll have you for starters and main course too!!?! Fancy a Fat Duck, big boy??!!

● **J.M. Coetzee**, He's the South African Booker Prize winner, stoopid!!?! He's already done it twice!?!! How about coming round to my place and making it a hat-trick?!?

● **Sir Elton John.** OK, so he wants a Ukrainian boy!!?! Who doesn't!?!! But if it doesn't work out, I'm always free!!?!

Byeee!!

ROYAL WEDDING OF THE CENTURY

How They Are Related

Rip van Winkleman
|
Rip von Winklepicker
|
Ned Twinkleman
|
Tinky Winkleman
|
Sir Ralph Twistleton-Winkleman-Fiennes
|
Lady Eve Bollard
|
Claudia Winkle-Bollard
|
Sophie, Countess of Wessex

George Michael V
|
Baron von Doodlebug of Ribbentrop
|
Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Pushy
|
Frank Windsor
|
Windsor Davies
|
Hunter Davies
|
Barbara Windsor
|
Lord Freddie Flintoff

ENGLAND WIN WORLD CUP

by Our Football Correspondent **Lunchtime O'verexcited**

YES! We've done it! Football has come home at last as our glory boys showed the rest of the world who is number one!

Make no mistake, Lamps, Stevie Gee and the Spud-faced nipper will go down in legend as not only the greatest footballers who have ever played, but the men who ended forty years of hurt to give England the ultimate prize of the World Cup.

Crow-atia

All that remains is for the boys to play a few matches and beat some other teams, but there is no getting away from the fact that yesterday at Wembley history was made and WE WON THE WORLD CUP.

They think it's all over – it is now.

Late Score

Unhatched chickens **5**

Hatched chickens **1**

"I told you it wouldn't end with with blood capsules..."

The Bible **SPORTS SECTION**

GOLIATH GATE SCANDAL CONTINUES

Top Philistine star Goliath "just pretended to lose" against weaker opponent David in the big match against the Israelites, it was revealed last night.

Goliath used fake blood "to pretend he was dead" and was therefore taken off the field of battle so he could be substituted by a specialist giant who (continued next 9400 years).

SPORTSMAN DOESN'T CHEAT SHOCK

by Our
Unsporting Staff

THE world of rugby, football, motor racing and all the others were rocked to their foundations with the sensational revelation that a sportsman had not dived, pretended to be cut nor deliberately crashed his car.

Said a spokesman for sport, "The sportsman is not representative of the vast majority of cheats who do their very best to compete in a dishonest way".

Late News

● Sportsman doesn't abuse official or assault opponent either.

TV SHOWS TO BE ON AT THE SAME TIME

VIEWERS were reeling last week after a TV channel revealed that a TV show on one channel would be shown at the same time as a TV show on another channel.

In the first time in the history of television, viewers will have to choose between watching one show or another.

It's feared that many will prefer to commit suicide rather than having to make this impossible choice. *(Reuters)*

An Open Letter To LIZ JONES

From Rachel Filler, sister of the more famous Polly

Dear Liz,

As a friend and neighbour in the wilds of Exmoor (or "Exboor" as I wittily called it in my best-selling book "The Exboor Factor", Johnson & Johnson, £19.99), may I take this opportunity to show off about having a place in the country as well as a pile in Notting Hill (or "Snotting-Ill" as I amusingly dubbed it in my previously best-selling book, "Wild West London", Johnson & Johnson, reduced to £1).

But seriously, Liz, you've upset a lot of people and made the elementary mistake of patronising the locals. As I could have told you, you mustn't do this because round our way they're all a bit inbred which makes them dim, humourless and thin-skinned!

It's different for me, Liz, because everyone loves me and the way I roll up my sleeves, pull on my green wellies and drive around in my rattly old brand-new Landrover!

You see, Liz, they don't see me as a ghastly, female journalist weekender from London trying to milk a few thousand words our of their dreary lives! No, I'm a much-valued part of the community and when I gently send up the fact that you can't get a decent cappucino when you're out on Exmoor (see the amusing chapter, "Moor coffee, please?") I didn't make a big fuss when a number of locals jokingly set fire to my cottage.

Because you know what, Liz? It gave me another column! And that's the important thing. And I was very grateful to the lovable, arsonist yokels – just as I'm grateful to you, Liz, for giving me yet another column in which I can give you advice!

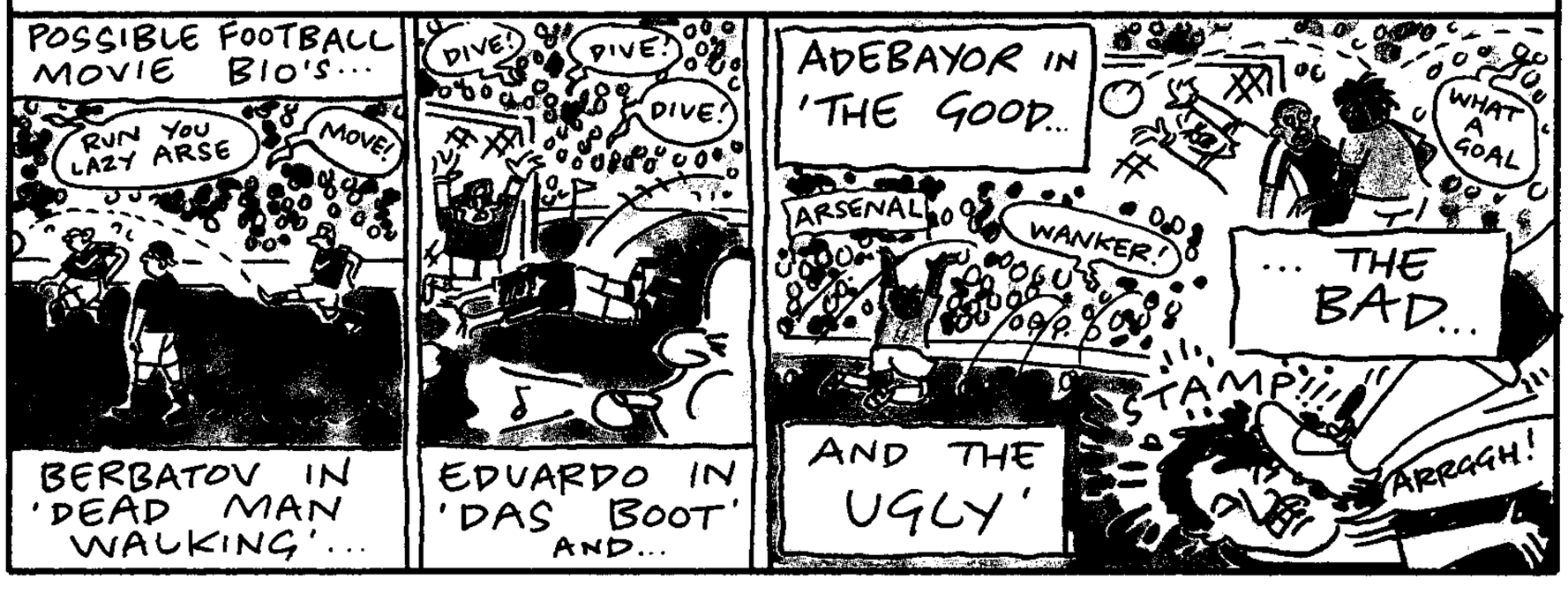
So, if you're still living alone on Exmoor with no friends next New Year's Eve, *don't* hesitate to drop in at my New Year's Eve party – in Notting Hill! Toute West London will be there!

Love,

Rachel.

© *Rachel Filler, Editor of the Lady Muck*

the PREMIERSH*TS



COMING SOON

'THE LOST ELECTION'

by GorDan Brown

Incredible blockbusting thriller by the author of the Da Vince Cable Code.

Solve the mysterious ancient riddle – will Brown win the election?

No.

Eye Rating: zzzzzzzz

A Cabbie writes

EVERY week a well-known taxi driver is invited to comment on an issue of topical importance. This week: **Sid Nozzer** (Cab No. 2346).

Did you read about that cabbie who done time for topping his old lady? Incredible, isn't it, guv? And now they're teaching him how to be a cab driver, driving round London in a black cab. Just think. You're sitting in the back of a cab, just like you're doing now, and I'm driving down this quiet little street, no one about, and I stop the cab, get out, come round the back where you're sitting and I pull out this gun here and I say, I'm going to blow your brains because IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO ARE DESTROYING THE UNIVERSE AND SHOULD BE ANNIHILATED, WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH (BANG).

POETRY CORNER

Lines on the departure of Mr Matthew D'Ancona as Editor of the Spectator

So. Farewell
Then Matthew
D'Ancona.

Not many people knew
You had been
Sacked.

But then
Not many people knew
You had the job
In the first place.

E.J. Thribb (17½)

● You can download a podcast of Thribb reading this threnody *"Requiem for a Departed Editor"* for only £5 (subscribers can download for free)

NEW SCOTTISH EDITOR OF SPECTATOR

Picasso's *Weeping Woman*

Picasso's Lesser-seen *Pull Yourself Together, Woman*

Neasden named as 'cradle of human race'

by Our Science Staff **Ann Thropologist** and **Miss I.N.G Link**

FOR centuries it has been believed that Africa was the birthplace of the human race, but sensational recent finds on a north-west London building site have led archaelogists to hypothesise that in fact the first human beings in the history of the world lived over 100 million years ago in the suburb of Neasden.

It was three weeks ago that workmen digging the foundations of the new Tesco Express on the North Circular-Dollis Hill interchange unearthed a skull which archeologists identified as belonging to a hitherto unknown "missing link" in the line of hominid descent.

"Sid, as we call him," said Professor Lee Kee of Shanghai, "is by far the most primitive form of human life ever discovered. The skull suggests that *homo neasdenicus* had a very small brain, and was only capable of semi-articulate grunts such as, 'come on, you squirrels' and 'the ref's a bastard'."

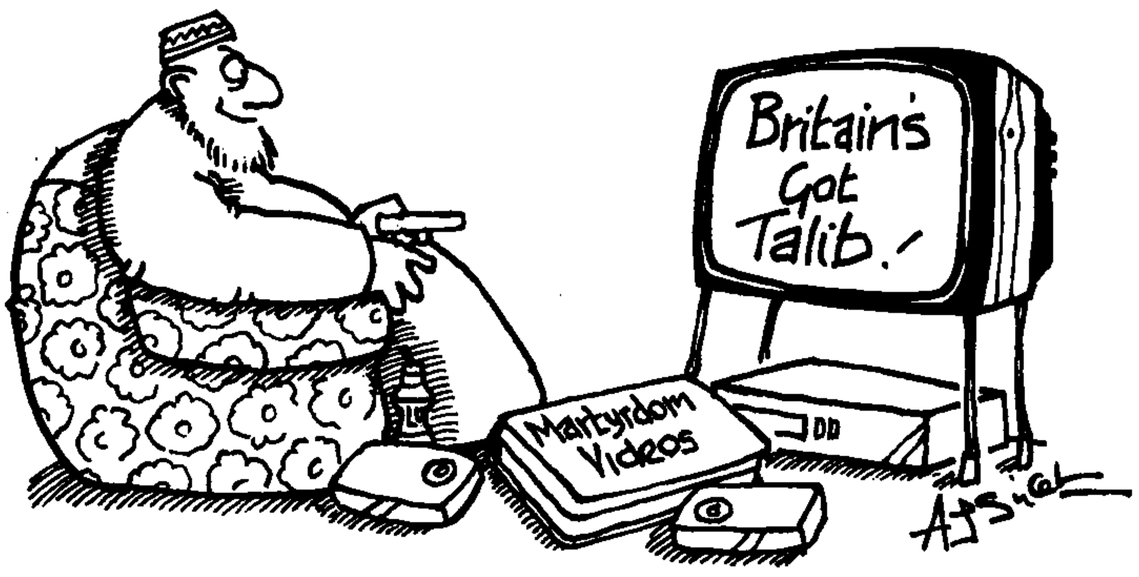
Where You Can See the Neasden Skull

Neasden Public Library, open Tuesdays 11-12, except Tuesdays.

Reprinted by permission of the Neasden and Dollis Hill Independent.

Dave Snooty AND HIS PALS

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DAVE - WE'VE GOT YOUR CUE CARDS!
BIG TV DEBATE REHEARSAL
RELAX!
SMILE!
DON'T LOOK SNOOTY!
WHAT IF I SAY SOMETHING STUPID ABOUT OUR POLICIES?
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN - WE DON'T HAVE ANY POLICIES!!!
FINAL MAKE-UP CHECK!
REMEMBER TO MAKE EVERYTHING UP!!!
HELLO OIKS!
CUT!
YES, THAT'S THE IDEA - CUT EVERYTHING! OOPS!
JELLIED EELS
THE CAMERON NEVER LIES, EH, READERS?!?



HOW KNACKER SAVED WORLD FROM DISASTER 'WORSE THAN 9/11'

by Our Writing-down-what-the-police-tell-us Staff **Phil Notebook**

FOLLOWING the sensational conviction of three top terrorists, found guilty of plotting to create a 9/11-style outrage by blowing up 79 air-liners simultaneously, Inspector 'Knacker of the Yard' Knacker yesterday paid tribute to himself and his staff for their foiling of the so-called 'Lucozade Bombers'.

Said Knacker, "It was a classic case of good old-fashioned police work – solid forensic analysis of all available leads which resulted in the apprehension of these world-class criminals."

When pressed for further details, Knacker explained, "The big breakthrough came when we got a phone call from our colleagues in Pakistan."

"It was an Inspector Nakerstani from Islamabad who gave us the vital tip-off that we needed."

The inspector then read out a transcript of the conversation which was to prove the turning point of the entire investigation.

"Nakerstani: We have reason to believe that three very dodgy fellows from your country are planning to do terrible things to aeroplanes with hydrogen peroxide. If you have pencil and paper I can give you their names and addresses. They are coming home on a plane to England and good riddance to them, we are all saying".

Knacker went on to explain how, thanks to tried and tested procedure, he had managed to copy out the names and addresses correctly, and he and his men had then gone to their addresses and arrested them.

"A search of the premises in question," he continued, "led to the discovery of a pile of bomb-making equipment (e.g. Coca Cola, shampoo etc.) plus a set of videos in which the terrorists explained how they were going to blow up the aeroplanes and thus commit suicide."

■ **Full story and pics: pp 1-94**

Those Afghan Election Results In Full

Kabul South: P.J.Q. Karzai *(no relation)*, Ruling Party: 49 votes. A.R.J. Antibakhanda, End Corruption Now Party: 251,600 votes.

Ruling Party hold seat. President's brother elected.

Helmand East: M.L.V. Karsai *(no relation)*, Ruling Party: 0 votes. Other candidates *(all deceased)*: 0 votes.

Ruling Party gain from Taliban. President's brother-in-law's friend's best man elected unopposed.

Full results next year.

WAR ON TERROR LATEST

US To Invade High Wycombe

■ **Full story and pix,** 94

Advertisement

NOW YOU TOO CAN BE A TURD!

At last Gnome computer Games Inc. (in conjunction with the Fuwataschorcha Karaoke Co.) is privileged to bring you the ultimate in rock 'n' roll reality experiences.

Thanks to the wizardry of the latest digital nano-technology you can actually become one of the legendary sixties popular singing group, the Turds.

You yourself, in person, can become Spiggy Topes, standing next to the rest of the 'Fab Four' with your legendary Gottlieb Super-Stratovarius guitar, playing such legendary Turd No 1's as 'I Am A Red Hot Swinging Perve' or 'Love Is The Thing, Hate Isn't'

But that's not all. Thanks to the geniuses of the Fuwatascorcha software division, you can actually live their lives! **You can:**

★ Be the object of Turdmania as millions of screaming teenagers invade your bedroom ★ Kneel at the feet of the transcendental guru Verishi Yogi bear while he asks for all your money ★ Lie in bed with Japanese performance artist Ono Yoki while demanding world peace ★ Be assassinated outside your front door by a homicidal lunatic.

In an alternative version of the game you can **★ Eat veggie burgers all day ★ Sing Scottish hit 'Dull of Kintyre' ★ Be robbed of your money by a one-legged fantasist posing as a charity worker.**

THE TURDS
PLUS
Now you too can be Dame Vera Lynn!

TORIES SEEK TO APPEAL TO NORTHERN VOTERS

BRITONS REJOICE AS RECESSION ENDS

by Our Global Economics Expert **Robert Pest**

AS THE news came through that Britain has emerged from recession to a new age of prosperity, millions of unemployed Britons celebrated by hugging each other outside Jobcentres.

Estate agents slashed their prices by tens of thousands of pounds, and factory owners shut their gates in recognition of the recovery of the manufacturing sector.

From Aberystwyth to Aberdeen, from Billericay to Beachy Head, from Droitwich to Dolgellau, the story was the same – as old age pensioners queued openly outside banks in the hope of withdrawing their savings as a mark of gratitude for Alistair Darling's brilliant handling of the economy.

PRESCOTT WILL BE LABOUR'S AL GORE – What You Will Hear

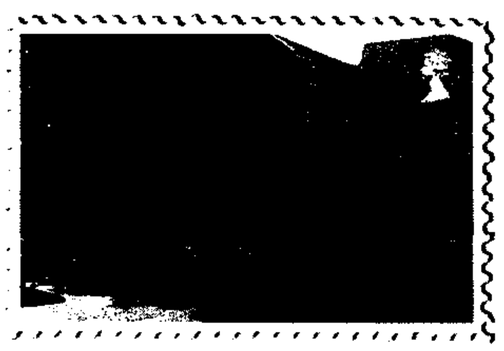
"NOW that I have had the honour of being appointed as European Super-Czar In Charge Of Climactic Change and made a Chinese Professor of Climatography, I am determined to stop carbon footsteps and clamp down on omissions to save the planet from a hologram brought about by globalised warning and people leaving their TVs on standstill all night and that is why I have flown out here to China, or wherever I am, to lay down a few basic elemental targets to get everyone sorted out on this crucialised issue before all the polar bears melt away before our eyes, and the sea levels rise thousands of feet, engulferating whole polupations such as Bangalore and Amsterjam... er... we can all *(cont. p. 94)*

New from Royal Mail

Commemorative stamps to celebrate Great British Strikes

4 historic scenes depicting the epoch making events of 2009

Letters piling up at Mt Pleasant



Management sorting letters in gutter

Pickets outside sorting office

20-stone Dave Ward Deputy General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union

CAMERON COMES OFF THE FENCE ON CUTS

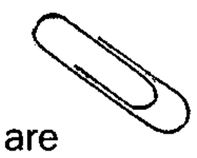
by Our Political Staff Peter O'Bore

IN HIS most decisive act since becoming Tory leader, David Cameron last night spelled out exactly where his government plans to cut public spending to the bone, to put Britain back on the road to recovery.

Where Big Dave's Axe Will Fall

As his first step towards slashing Britain's £1.5 trillion deficit, Mr Cameron will move to end the lavishly subsidised lifestyle enjoyed by Britain's pampered MPs.

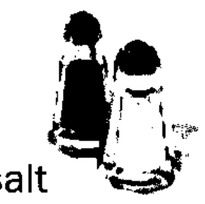
1. Paper Clips



The days of free paperclips for MPs are over. From now on, they will be given a daily allowance of 380, after which they will be expected to pay for their own.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £25 million***

2. Condiments



No longer will MPs enjoy unlimited quantities of free salt and pepper at luncheon in the members' canteens. A special coin-operated 'Condiment Dispenser' will be installed, to provide single portions of non-subsidised salt or pepper at 50p per serving.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £37.5 million***

3. Post-It Notes

The regulation 'Post-It' notes issued to MPs, carrying the famous 'Portcullis' logo, will be reduced in size from 6.5cm x 2.7cm to something a bit smaller.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £56.3 million***

4. Water Coolers

MPs currently enjoy an unlimited supply of chilled water in disposable plastic beakers, paid for by the taxpayers. In future, MPs will have to supply their own organic beakers.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £82.1 million***

5. Alcohol

Bottles of Château Petrus 1961, currently available to MPs at a subsidised price of £4 each, will in future be more realistically priced at £8.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £10 billion***

6. Trouser Press

The 29 'Corby Elect' trouserpresses, strategically placed round the corridors of the Palace of Westminster, for the exclusive use of MPs, will no longer be 'on the house'. Instead, a special Trouser Press Swipe Card will be issued to all members, allowing each hour of pressing time to be charged at £3.50.

£££ ***Estimated saving: £378 million***

Asked about other areas of public spending where he might identify possible cuts, eg Trident, the NHS, quangos, education, social security, etc, Mr Cameron said that it was far too early to make specific commitments and that, once elected, his government would set up a series of committees "to take a jolly good look at whatever it is that might be a suitable candidate for spending cuts or not".

Mr Cameron is 23.

THE Sun SAYS

Shame on you, Ma'am, you've done it again

As the entire nation yesterday bowed its head in mourning at the tragic news that Britain's greatest living Irishman, Sir Terence Wogan, had switched off his microphone for the last time, one voice was suspiciously silent.

As tributes poured in, from celebrities across the world – including President Obama, Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Stephen Fry – where was Her Majesty the Queen?

Instead of coming out on the Palace balcony to lead the nation in a day of mourning, she heartlessly chose to stick to her long-arranged schedule by thoughtlessly opening a new dialysis centre for children at the Princess Eugenie Hospital, Market Barkworth.

We say it again, shame on you, your Maj. Tony Blair got it right when he called Terry 'The People's Presenter'.

It's a pity you never made him Lord Wogan of Breakfast while he was still alive. *(Is this right? Ed.)*

The Wit And Wisdom Of Terry The Togmeister

On Modern Life

"Top of the morning to you. Time to read out some emails"

On The Future Of Broadcasting

"The time is coming up to 8.30 and here is Celine Dion"

On Politics

"And now the traffic with Lynn Bowles"

On Retirement

"This is me, Terry Wogan, saying 'goodbye'"

(That's enough wit and wisdom)

Status of Kerry Katona officially raised to 'troubled'

by **Michael Heat**

THE OFFICIAL status of Kerry Katona has now been raised from "tearful" to "troubled", *Heat* magazine has said, following crisis talks with her ex-husband.

The level was last raised in April, which meant losing a lucrative advertising deal was "highly likely". The latest upgrading means there is a "strong possibility" of the star going into complete meltdown, which could even lead to the public becoming increasingly bored.

Celebrity experts have said Katona's level was "under constant review" and could go down again if it was felt appropriate. .

INFORMATION: How does the status level system escalate?

- Worried
- Tearful
- Troubled
- Critical
- Winehouse

Those most popular children's names in 2009

(taken from the Official Registrar of Births, Marriages, Divorces, Live-in Relationships (with or without pre-nup), Adoption by Same Sex Civil Partners, etc.)

Boys	Girls
1. Mohammed	**1.** Jordan
2. Muhamed	**2.** Jordon
3. Mohamet	**3.** Jordania
4. Mahmoud	**4.** Jordie
5. Sir Peregrine Worsthorne	**5.** Dame Joanna Lumley
6. Ahmed	**6.** Jordo
7. Mehmet	**7.** Jordella
8. Sir Stephen Fry	**8.** Dame Joan Bakewell
9. Muhamet	**9.** Jordeyonce
10. Baby P.	**10.** Hazel Blears

Teenage Hell

"Darling, you look really nice!"

FLEET STREET LEGEND DEAD

Nation Mourns

by Lunchtime O'Booze

MAKE no mistake – Keith Waterhouse was a legend in his lifetime and was recognised as one of the most prolific drinkers of his generation.

It is estimated that during his long career, Keith drank over 25,000 bottles of champagne, plus countless bottles of white wine, red wine, beer, cider and Scotch.

He was such a dedicated boozer that by eleven o'clock in the morning he had already dashed off a Jeroboam of Taittinger and several dozen doubles of McHackey's Fine Old Highland Malt ("a wee dram afore ye have another dram").

He once famously said, while sitting in a corner of one of his favourite pubs, *The Old Hack in a Bush*, in Watkins' Court, just off Fleet Street, "No day is complete unless I have several dozen empty bottles to show for it".

But those who knew Keith well were aware that he had another life, writing countless plays, novels and newspaper columns *(cont. p. 94)*

On other pages

● **"How I got drunk with Keith Waterhouse" by Everybody** 10-14

That New Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

Those New Additions In Full

NOW, alongside such geniuses as Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill and Oscar Wilde, the modern generation will at last have their say in the all-time pantheon of fame that is the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

What You Will Read

Jamie Oliver *"Lovely jubbly"*

Paris Hilton *"I'm Paris Hilton"*

Sir Stephen Fry *"Bless"*

Wayne Rooney *"I was never offside, ref"*

Sir Alan Sugar *"You're fired"*

Rabbi Lionel Blue *"Hullo Brian, hullo Sue"*

Prince Harry *"Yah"*

Hilary Clinton *"Vote for me"*

Gordon Ramsay *"Fuck off"*

Yes, these are just some of the immortal quotations of our time that sum up the spirit of the age we live in and will be treasured as a source of wisdom before being taken to the local Oxfam shop where they will remain on the shelf for generations to come.

DIARY

LIZ JONES

Why's it always me, that's what I want to know?

I've got nothing to say. There's a deadline looming and I've done it all, I've used it all up. My life, I mean. Last week, I did my lovely, lovely, lovely dog dying on me. That'll teach him to sit in a locked car on a hot day with the windows shut.

When I found him there, all sweaty and dead, I shed so many tears on my retro Chanel two-piece that I had to take it to the dry-cleaners in Dulverton high street, and a fat lot of good they were. But in the end it was all worth it – my pooch dying, the dry-cleaning bill, taking the dry-cleaners to the small claims court, the lady in the dry cleaners calling me a bloody little rat-faced bitch – because I got six articles out of it, almost a s many as I got out of the time I threw myself in front of a train because I had low self-esteem resulting from a spot on my chin and my selfish bastard of a husband telling me that no way was he going to perform a circumcision on himself even though he bloody knew I prefer them less flappy and I was perfectly willing to shell out for the stanley knife.

So now I'm staring at myself naked in the full length mirror wondering what the hell to write about.

I'd do the postman and that dreadful way he has of grinning and putting his sweaty hands on my post and how he could do with losing a good three stones and even then he'd be as fat as a double-decker. But I did him the week before last, and then I did a follow-up piece about the way he had a hissy-fit about it. I mean, some people in my village really can't take the tiniest piece of constructive criticism, can they? He must be gay, the way he reacted. His wife, who cleans for me, if you can call it cleaning, looks as if she's not had sex for a year, so I must be on to something. And when I wrote about her total but total failure to clean my toilet (nickname Sally) properly (I'd just had diarrhoea, owing to low self-esteem, and Sally was crying out for a really good going-over with the Domestos) she threatened to walk out on me, talk about thin-skinned. So I wrote about her threatening to walk out, and then she got in a right old strop, so I wrote about that, too.

So what am I going to write about now? I've done my battle with anorexia and my battle with bulimia and my battle with fat thighs and my battle with thin thighs and my battle with my Brazilian waxer and my battle with my colonic irrigator and my battle with my neighbours and my battle with my neighbours' grandparents and not only that but I've done my beloved pony dying (it all got a bit nasty when it refused to canter when I asked it) and my lovely cuddly goldfish dying (for chrissakes why don't those lazy good-for-nothing pet shops make it clear that fish have to live in water?) and my former-boyfriend not being able to get it up (even though I was paying for the luxury five-star hotel suite and had bought the fruit-flavoured condoms too) and my battle with the villagers for being so greedy and pug-ugly and my battle with the puny lily-livered dimwits in all the surrounding villages for not having the guts to join me in my battle with the villagers. Don't these people know what it's like to be a sensitive young woman living all by yourself with nothing to write about? Or are they just too thoughtless and bloody-minded to care?

So I'm standing naked in front of the mirror searching for anything to tell my lovely lovely readers about when in a flash of inspiration it suddenly comes to me.

I'll remove a limb!

Flushed with excitement from head to toe, I hurtled downstairs in search of my most expensive designer kitchen knife (£65 from Seraitier of Bond Street). Found it!

Then I hurtled back up to the mirror again and prepared to make the Big Decision.

Which limb?

If I cut off a finger or toe it would eventually pay for itself, as that would give me an annual five per cent saving on nail varnish. But these days who gives a toss about fingers and toes? I might go to all that effort only to find my lovely lovely readers couldn't give a toss about it and give me no feedback whatsoever, ungrateful bloody so-and-sos.

What about a leg? If it worked for that boot-faced sourpuss Heather Mills, it'll work for me. It would give me columns galore - not only six or seven about how I managed to cut off my own leg with a carving knife, but three or four about how much I love hopping in the country, and at least another half-dozen on how no-one in my hard-hearted village has shown any sympathy what-so-bloody-ever for a young woman who's struggling to come to terms with a new disability, thank you very much.

But just in time it strikes me that if I cut off my leg I'll never be able to kick anyone ever again, and that breaks my heart. I could cut off my head, I suppose, but then I could never wear my beautiful Philip Treacy hat (total cost £650) again without it falling off and that would be a total but total waste of the massive £650, no kidding, it cost me.

Back to square one (story of my life! Talk about to hell and back!).

But then I'm thinking – what about the skin?

I've always had a troubled relationship with my skin. Now it's too wrinkly, now it's too spotty, now it's too saggy. Whatever! All in all, as my osteopath always said (before I had to get rid of him for talking behind my back) I've never been happy in my own skin.

So it had to go!

Ouch! Ouchitty-ouchitty-OUUCH!

It's hard to put into words the pain involved in peeling off all your own skin. But it's worth it in the end. You make an incision on your tummy with a sharp knife, then peel upwards, and keep on peeling, so that eventually you're pulling all your skin over your head just as though it was an expensive skin-tight cashmere sweater by Stella McCartney.

Next, you start pulling the rest of your skin from your tummy downwards, so that eventually it comes off at the feet like a pair of Wolford tights.

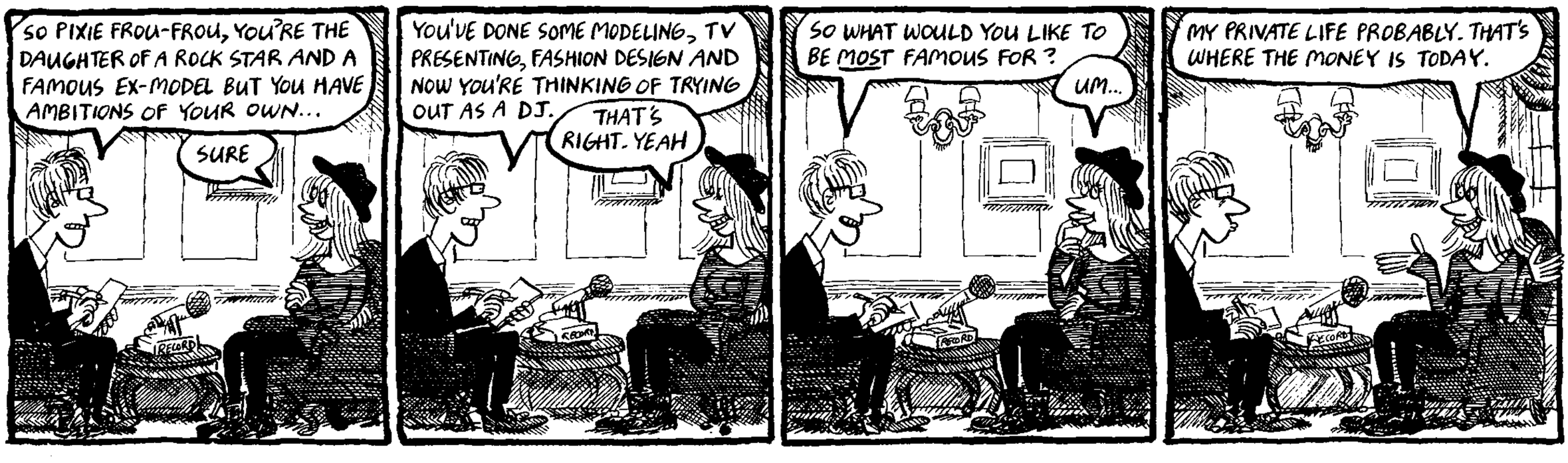
Hey presto! You're left looking in the mirror at a Whole New Me! I may be a bit pink and I may be a bit gooey – but at long last I don't have to live in my own skin!

Next week: How I donated all my own skin to the village to make a new flag for the village hall-and how they turned their ungrateful noses up at it!

Week after next: How I wish I had my own skin back, and how I really really hate myself for peeling it all off.

As told to

CRAIG BROWN


SO PIXIE FROU-FROU, YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF A ROCK STAR AND A FAMOUS EX-MODEL BUT YOU HAVE AMBITIONS OF YOUR OWN...
SURE
RECORD
YOU'VE DONE SOME MODELING, TV PRESENTING, FASHION DESIGN AND NOW YOU'RE THINKING OF TRYING OUT AS A DJ.
THAT'S RIGHT. YEAH
SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MOST FAMOUS FOR?
UM...
MY PRIVATE LIFE PROBABLY. THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS TODAY.

Literary Review

Pulp Friction

SO. FAREWELL then Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz. The funder of al-Qaeda, sponsor of the most corrupt bank of the late 20th century, greaser of the wheels of politics and a prolific pulper of books died of a heart attack in Jeddah last month aged 60.

If the legal profession had a shred of gratitude, a procession of sobbing solicitors led by a bereft Mr Justice Eady would have carried his body to the grave. For the world will remember this plutocrat for enriching English lawyers by using our absurd libel laws to stifle debate about his exotic corruptions.

The UN and international human rights groups condemned the libel tourism he came to exemplify as a global threat to free speech. The US was so outraged by the judgments Eady gave in his favour that its Congress began passing a law to protect American citizens from English libel verdicts.

How was it, asked protesting foreigners, that Bin Mahfouz could go to court in England and claim that journalists were damaging his "good name" when, by any reasonable standard, he had no good name worth protecting?

Bin Mahfouz was the owner of the National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia, and as such was up to his eyebrows in the shady dealings of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. In 1992, after BCCI's collapse, the New York district attorney Robert Morgenthau issued an indictment against him. Bin Mahfouz was a principal shareholder and director in the BCCI Group, it stated. He then secretly withdrew his investment, an action which resulted "in a gross misstatement of the true financial picture of the bank", as Morgenthau put it. Luckless investors and depositors, who did not realise Bin Mahfouz had got out before the balloon went up, suffered "larger losses when BCCI's worldwide Ponzi scheme finally collapsed". Bin Mahfouz denied all allegations, but agreed to pay a fine of $225m and accept a ban from any further activity in the US banking system.

Though Bin Mahfouz sought to protect his "reputation" in the English courts, he was not English. Nor was he a Saudi. In 1990 he had bought Irish passports for himself and 10 members of his family over lunch at the Shelbourne hotel in Dublin with the then Irish Taoiseach Charles Haughey.

Such was the man before whom the English legal establishment prostrated itself. Time and again Bin Mahfouz used the law or the threat of legal action to ban books that mentioned his links to al-Qaeda. It was not that he denied links to al-Qaeda – he admitted he had given Bin Laden money; but he insisted he only did so when al-Qaeda was fighting the Soviets. Equally, he did not deny that money to extremist groups may have passed through his bank or charity; he just said he had no knowledge of such payments.

Writers seeking to test his assertions, and to see if there were grounds for the relatives of the dead of 9/11 naming him in lawsuits or for the US Treasury department treating him with suspicion, were clobbered. The serial suer did not allow any reference to him, however hedged with lawyerly caveats, to go unpunished.

In April 2006, Cambridge University Press, about the most reputable publisher in Britain, released *Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World*, by the equally reputable J Millard Burr, a former USAID relief coordinator in Sudan, and Robert O Collins, a history professor. It pointed out that Mahfouz's charity Muwafaq ("Blessed Relief") Foundation was accused in October 2001 by the US Treasury department of having transferred funds to al-Qaeda. The authors noted that it was Khalid Bin Mahfouz who founded the charity in the early 1990s and provided most of its $20m endowment – but they also noted that this did not mean he knowingly sponsored terrorism, and they printed his statement that he "was not involved in the running of the charity". No good did their care do them. Cambridge University Press pulped the book and issued a grovelling apology – which, pointedly, Burr and Collins refused to endorse.

The hapless publisher could not fight a libel case. Given the extortionate costs of defamation actions in England, an academic house operating on tight margins could not risk a potentially crippling bill.

Bin Mahfouz exploited the rich man's law for all it was worth. Profile Books pulped Matthew Carr's *Unknown Soldiers: How Terrorism Transformed the Modern World*, after receiving threatening letters from Bin Mahfouz's lawyers. In March 2004, following a similar threat, Pluto Press agreed to pulp Michael Griffin's *Reaping the Whirlwind: The Taliban Movement in Afghanistan*. At the same time, Mahfouz's lawyers persuaded Random House to abandon its plan to publish Craig Unger's American bestseller *House of Bush, House of Saud*. Random House's deputy chairman, Simon Master, complained at the time that the expense of fighting a libel suit would be "vastly more than the publisher could hope to earn from the book".

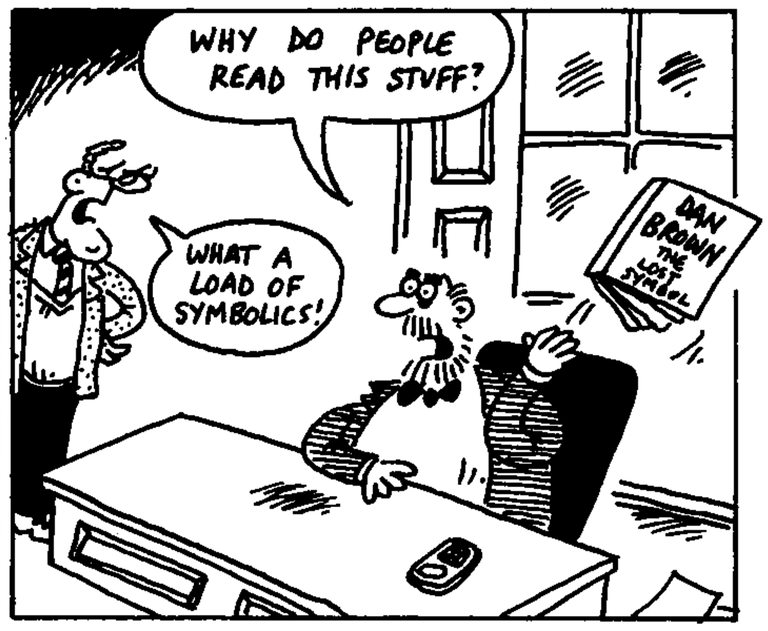
On and on it went, and when Bin Mahfouz's lawyers issued a writ against *Funding Evil: How Terrorism Is Financed and How to Stop It* by the American author Rachel Ehrenfeld, it must have seemed like just another standard day's work at the office. Boy, did they make a mistake. The redoubtable Ms Ehrenfeld turned Eady's order that she must pulp her book and pay Bin Mahfouz costs and damages into an international scandal.

Funding Evil had never been published or publicised in Britain; only a few copies reached Britain via Amazon sales on the internet. But their presence was enough to allow Eady to censor. As Ehrenfeld took her case from state legislatures to Congress, American writers and publishers realised that all the constitutional protections for freedom of speech could count for nothing if a copy of a book reached Britain.

As the Labour MP Denis MacShane said under the protection of parliamentary privilege: "It is not exactly a secret that a great deal of the money that has financed fundamentalist extremist organisations that support jihad has come from Saudi Arabia. There is no freedom of expression in Saudi Arabia, so it is the duty of others to expose what is happening." But they could not fulfil their duty because "British courts will not uphold freedom of expression."

Nor, it seems, will the British press. While Bin Mahfouz was alive, only the *Eye* and *Index on Censorship* braved his lawyers and described the march of foreign censorship through the courts. Corpses cannot sue – not even in England – but not one national paper reported Bin Mahfouz's death or took the opportunity to explain how he had helped make English law an object of ridicule and fear around the world.

'Ratbiter'



FIRST DRAFTS
An author has a lucrative deal with a publisher to keep delivering dilemma novels - but they are getting increasingly ridiculous - Does she deliver them anyway?
Pearsall

Jodi Picoult

Books & Bookmen

■ THEY were warned about James Naughtie, but they evidently didn't listen or weren't able to find the right drugs to control the presenter's legendary logorrhoea.

Just as the *Eye* predicted, Naughtie's speech at the Booker shortlist party was so long it had VIPs fuming, minders twitching and prize adminstrator Ion Trewin staring disconsolately at his shoes, a feat largely achieved by a technique (familiar to *Today* listeners) of saying everything – including the groan-eliciting gaffe that JM Coetzee currently lives in South Africa – twice.

As his Booker banquet speech is bound to be even longer, guests are advised to take a pen-light and good book. Particularly if he's presenting *Today* on the same day and is thus low on sleep and high on adrenaline.

Naughtie's verbosity meant that what he actually said received little attention, including his criticism of editors and the linked assertion that the judges had rejected "some incredibly bad books by some incredibly big names". Who was he referring to? Whispers from the judging room suggest his panel were stunned by the awfulness of the offerings from Margaret Atwood (is she turning into Doris Lessing, from feminism to sci-fi daffiness?) and John Banville, whose *The Infinities* reworks the Amphitryon myth (how desiccated a project this is can be gauged from the title of Giraudoux's 1929 play *Amphitryon 38*, a joke about the number of previous adaptations).

Also deemed feeble, their absence from even the longlist suggests, were the attempts at Dickensian social probing, all set in London today, by Monica Ali,

☛ Continued over...

William Boyd and Sebastian Faulks.

Other commentators have thus echoed the *Eye* in noting the resulting historical bias of Naughtie's panel's selected titles. Is this the fault of the judges or the writers?

■ THIS week's release of Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol will see the first big test for Waterstone's new centralised distribution system, the "hub", which provides books to nearly all the chain's shops from a vast warehouse in Burton-on-Trent run by an outside company, Unipart Consumer Logistics.

In May the company announced that it would be shedding up to 650 staff, mostly those dealing with deliveries and returns, as a result of the new system's introduction.

The hub was originally intended to be ready for September 2008, put back to the new year (to avoid any teething problems spoiling last Christmas) then predicted to arrive in the spring, before finally limping into full operation in August. Full? Not quite. So confident are managers in the new system that they are keeping the Gower Street academic branch at the heart of London's university district from assimilation into the hub until November, when the new term rush for textbooks will be over.

Publishers report "significant problems" getting books into shops ready for publication dates. "It's a great worry," one told the Eye last week. "The stock is just getting held up – they're currently prioritising the very big titles, which means they'll probably be all right with Brown, but anything less than that big best-seller is very, very delayed."

Staff in stores report that some customer orders which would in the past have been expected within three to four days now take weeks to arrive. In June, all shops already connected to the hub were told to stop taking pre-payment from customers when they ordered books because of "ongoing issues at the hub", and to inform them to expect an "extended delivery time", though the chain began taking pre-payment again two weeks later. This month the company announced that sales had dropped by 2.6 percent since the end of the last financial year, and that managing director Gerry Johnson's pay had dropped by nearly half after his bonus was withheld for failing to meet profit targets.

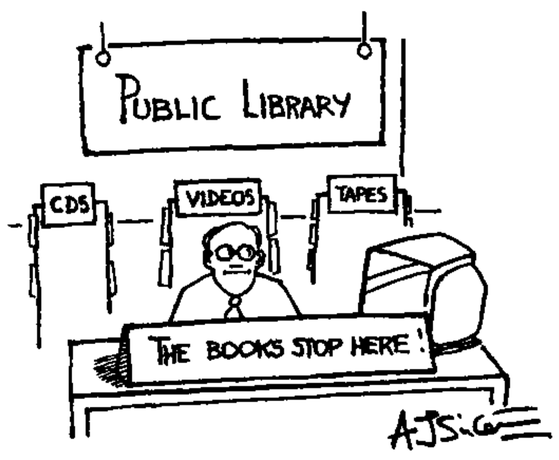
"It's very depressing being at a branch where our once very efficient customer order and accounts departments have been reduced to a shambles because orders are constantly not turning up," wrote one Waterstone's staffer on the Bookseller website last week. "We have certainly lost business because of this and have had a lot of complaints too. If customers order a series of titles from one publisher, they don't even arrive together but in a series of dribs and drabs... We have been on the hub for several months now and the problems are still continuing. Perhaps it may improve but its causing a lot of damage in the meantime. And we still have Christmas to come..."

■ ARE YOU a lover of literature? Time, then, to book your tickets for the autumn's literary festivals.

Adverts for October's Cheltenham Festival of Literature that appeared in sponsor paper the *Times* this week proffer the delights of comedians Harry Hill and Stephen Fry, model Sophie Dahl, actors Colin Salmon, Judi Dench, Juliet Stephenson, Robert Vaughn and June Whitfield, crooner Andy Williams and lawyer and celebrity wife Cherie Blair.

The *Independent*, meanwhile, is enticing readers to its own Woodstock Literary Festival this weekend with the gorgeous pouting faces of politicians David Cameron and Zac Goldsmith, journalists Robert Fisk, Tom Parker Bowles and Mariella Frostrup, and impressionists Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona.

Admittedly Woodstock lets the side down somewhat by including novelist Tony Parsons (though he is



given equal billing with his co-star, celebrity sycophant "GQ editor Dylan Jones"), but otherwise not one figure who makes their primary living from writing, er, literature, is featured in either advert.

■ WITH even high-minded Faber inanely subtitling John Carey's William Golding biog *"The Man Who Wrote* Lord of the Flies", such dumbing-down is likely to become a trend as the literary biography fights for survival.

There's a dinner-party game of devising how lives of bookish blokes can be made sellable, starting with other Faber authors. If Valerie Eliot – soon to produce a second volume of TS's letters, only 20 years after Vol 1, so perhaps becoming more flexible – agrees at last to an official biography, *The Man Who Wrote Cats* is inevitable; Ted Hughes is a little trickier, with *Plath's Husband and Poet* vying with the racier *Poetry's Heathcliff: His Wife and Lover Both Committed Suicide.*

Autumn's other biographies may need to reflect the tabloid trend when they return as paperbacks. Look out for *The Shit Who Wrote Hits: Somerset Maugham*, and *Maggie, Hitler and Serial Shagging: Alan Clark's Louche Life.*

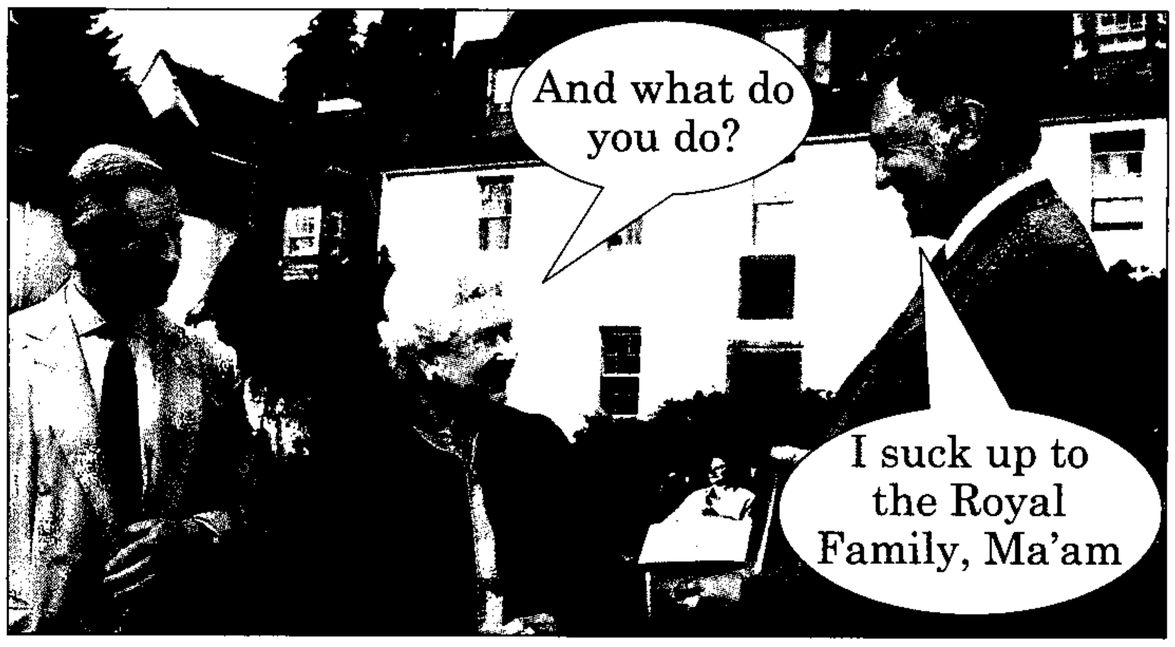
■ IF INTERNET giant Google gets its way at a fairness hearing in a New York court on 7 October, the search engine will also become the world's largest library.

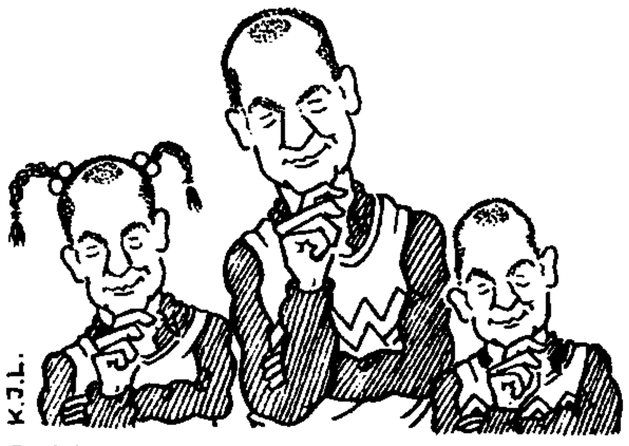
Judging by the limited stock of digitised books available at books.google.co.uk, we may see a rewriting of literary history, however. Already accessible are extracts from an 1888 version of Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, while the same year apparently saw publication of two prescient titles: *History of the Second World War* by Martin Gilbert and *The First World War: An Illustrated History* by AJP Taylor.

Most far-sighted of all, perhaps, is John Naughton's *A Brief History of the Future: The Origins of the Internet*, which, Google Books maintains, was published in... 1905!

'Bookworm'

SHAWCROSS BOOK DRAMA





My kids
Both of them [Tabitha, 9, and Rafferty, 6] look like me and act like me and are just awesome. I can't verbalise how much I love them. It's like when they are born and you have to name them – it is such a sad moment labelling something that is so beyond nomenclature.

JOHNNY VAUGHAN,
Times Magazine

Thank God I wasn't around then, because I think the Second World War would have been really traumatising.

MISHA GLENNY,
Saturday Review (Radio Four)

These speed optimisations are deep, reminding me of when a master martial artist puts the entirety of his weight behind a strike (while a neophyte would flail his limbs like a henchman in a Bruce Lee movie). The little UI tweaks are no different than when a great sculptor's chisel works to remove everything non-essential during the final steps of a statue.

BRIAN LAM reviews an upgrade to the Apple OSX operating system, Gizmodo technology website

There was Ponting, the last giant, walking the earth in a daze, like Polyphemus, wondering where all the other giants had gone.

GILES COREN, *The Times*

He [Stuart Broad] ran in like a sprinter, hurled the ball like a javelin thrower and finessed his opponents like a chess grand master.

SIMON BARNES, *The Times*

It was 12 minutes to six o'clock, the Oval was bathed in the kind of sunlight that presages an early autumn, and Alastair Cook had taken the catch that gave England victory. At that moment of triumph, Andrew Strauss may have felt at one with Wellington when the Iron Duke raised his hat on the ridge at La Haye Sante, and watched his infantrymen destroy Napoleon Bonaparte's Imperial Guard.

MICHAEL HENDERSON,
Daily Telegraph

Certainly, chairs that are expensive, yet useless, one-offs are testimonies to our crisis of nihilistic self-loathing, but, as a narrative means, four legs and a seat have a limited expressive range.

STEPHEN BAYLEY, *Observer*

Nietzsche said something along the lines of: if you define something it loses a certain amount of its power. Air guitar is very much like that – if you can see the guitar it would be boring, and if you try to define airness, some of the depth would be lost.

ZAC MONRO, director of Air Guitar UK and championship judge

CONTRIBUTORS: Nick Harrison, Mark Righter, Rick Webber, Mark Jenkins, Roy Harris, Anon, Chris Moss, Ian White.

£10 paid for all entries

Pseuds Corner

IN THE BACK

POVERTY RELIEF

CDC's seedy bedfellows

THANKS to CDC, Britain's publicly-owned development fund, taxpayers' cash intended for poverty relief is finding its way to some very dubious places.

By placing its money in the hands of profit-driven private equity fund managers, CDC, formerly the Commonwealth Development Corporation, has all but relinquished control of where it goes. Thus at the beginning of last year CDC's funds were channeled into controversial mining company Central African Gold (CAG). This firm was set-up by ex-England cricketer Phil Edmonds six years ago with colleagues from another of his companies, Central African Mining and Exploration Company plc (CAMEC), run with long-time Edmonds associate Billy Rautenbach, a fugitive from South African justice and blacklisted by the EU. CAMEC, with which Rautenbach is still deeply involved, remains a major shareholder in CAG.

A few weeks ago CAMEC was exposed in a *Channel 4 Dispatches* programme as one of the few white businesses to have benefited from Robert Mugabe's reign of terror in Zimbabwe. Shortly before last year's presidential elections, CAMEC paid around $100m to companies controlled by Mugabe's Zanu-PF party for platinum mining concessions, cash which reportedly armed his campaign. Rautenbach, meanwhile, was handed a ranch that was supposedly held in trust for black agriculture and proceeded to evict the local farmers.

Yet through American private equity manager Emerging Capital Partners, CDC invests billions alongside CAMEC in CAG – without much success, it must be said: two Zimbabwean mining operations acquired in 2007 were mothballed late last year due to the "adverse political and economic climate". The company is yet to turn a profit and currently has its shares suspended over accounting irregularities. They were last traded at 1.3p each, something of a slump since British taxpayers, via CDC, went in at, ahem, 28p.

ECP was also the fund manager that put CDC / UK taxpayers' money into an Australian mining company, Anvil, criticised by campaigners and the World Bank when its vehicles were used in a massacre near its mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo (see *Eye* 1217).

POLICE 5

Flog on the Tyne

LAST month Knacker of Northumbria put out a news release to touch the heart of every animal lover. It showed a forlorn-looking police dog, Cleo (pictured with PC Neve), claiming she was one of four dogs "kicked, punched to the ground and stamped on" by rampaging Sunderland football thugs.

According to the police statement, reported in the local press, fans on their way home from a pre-season friendly in Edinburgh against Hearts arrived at Newcastle station "intent on violence" and lashed out at both police and dogs. Although "shocked, battered and bruised", luckily none of the dogs was seriously injured, said the statement.

But is Northumbria presiding over its own G20-type crowd policing disaster? For the same lack of serious injury cannot be said of at least four Sunderland fans who were hospitalised or needed emergency treatment, three with severe head wounds apparently caused by being beaten with batons, and a fourth with a dog bite wound to his stomach. One of those with a head wound was also bitten.

Accounts by fans contrast starkly to those of the police and suggest there were delays in getting medical treatment to those with head wounds. One supporter said that despite telling officers he had experience as a Territorial Army medic, he was prevented from giving assistance to one man. Phone video evidence shows the man lying in a pool of blood.

Last week, following freedom of information requests, Northumbria was forced to admit the extent of the injuries to police and dogs. Er, none… except for two dogs, with "tenderness on their bodies" which had not required a trip to the vet.

And did the severe injuries to the fans trigger an investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission? It seems not. The police had told the IPCC that they had intelligence that a core of Sunderland soccer thugs on the train was behind a pre-arranged fight with Newcastle supporters, and that officers were there to escort the fans to the Metro and keep the factions apart. The police also published two clips of video evidence, one showing fans shouting and jeering at the cordon of police surrounding them; and a second showing some men entering a subway, one of whom appears to be carrying a stick.

But a week after the incident, commissioner for the North and East, Gary Garland, announced that after assessing video footage from CCTV at the station, the underground and from police hand-held cameras, it was "conclusive" that officers "were subjected to a high level of violence". Their use of force was "justifiable" and the IPCC did not need to play any role in investigating the affair, he said. But in reaching this decision, the Football Supporters Federation (no friend of thugs who use the sport as an excuse for violence), which has taken up the case, say that the IPCC had not considered any evidence from or interviewed any of the fans at the station.

Their evidence and clips of video footage are now being collated by the FSF, which has taken the unusual step of lodging formal complaints against the IPCC and calling on Mr Garland to resign for prejudging the case ahead of a proper investigation, which Northumbria is now conducting into… itself. As the FSF points out, this doesn't inspire confidence.

Northumbria is also carrying out a criminal investigation into the trouble.

Statements from a number of fans suggest that, contrary to police assertions that they were heading to Newcastle bent on trouble, the fans had in fact waited an extra half-hour for a non-scheduled football special train that was supposed to take them directly to Sunderland. For some unknown reason, it terminated in Newcastle. They point out that any fans planning trouble would have caught an earlier train that was scheduled to stop in Newcastle.

They further claim that they were kept waiting for about 20 minutes and then corralled off the train, and that police were pushing fans forward on to police at the front who were blocking their exit. This caused a crush and some fans started to protest and swear at the police. One teacher described how a teenage Sunderland fan was pushed on to the police cordon and a dog bit him on the stomach. He said chaos ensued as fans tried to grab the teenager back. It was suggested that if any of the dogs were hit or kicked, it was in an attempt to get them off supporters.

Dr Malcolm Clarke, chair of the FSF, said the case raised a number of issues that the IPCC or an independent force should investigate. The FSF has requested that all video footage be made available.

Knacker, meanwhile, has made 31 arrests on suspicion of causing violent disorder, with all fans bailed. Other than one man charged with being drunk and disorderly, no other charge has so far been brought. The IPCC told the *Eye* it was happy with its decision based on the evidence it had available to it at the time. Watch this space…

COLONY COLLAPSE

Bee and Benn

WHEN dishing out funds for research into the decline of honey bees earlier this year, environment secretary Hilary Benn insisted that his department "hadn't seen any evidence" that pesticides were bad for bees – even though there was already enough research for some pesticides to have been banned in France, Italy and Germany and for California to be re-evaluating hundreds of products (*Eye* 1235).

Last week, that evidence was handed over in spades at a Downing Street "bee summit", when Buglife, aka the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, presented a review of more than 20 studies relating to the neonicotinoid pesticide imidacloprid.

Those studies found that bees exposed to non-lethal doses of the pesticide through contaminated nectar and pollen "forage less and produce fewer offspring", while one report found "apathy, laboured breathing, a lack of co-ordination and convulsion" in affected bees. Several conservation charities now want approvals for neonicotinoid products to be suspended. Will Benn's department deign to look at the evidence now?

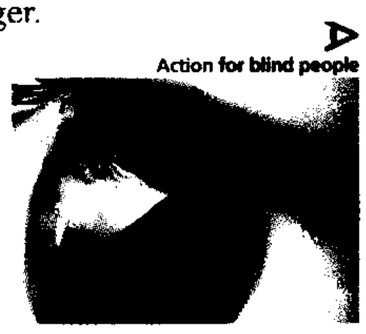
CHARITY NEWS

Blind panic

RED faces and resentment in the charity world for the blind and partially sighted.

In October last year, the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) announced that it had "agreed in principle" to combine with the smaller Action for Blind People, enabling them to share skills and expertise and "reach more people with even better services".

Under the deal Action for Blind People was to become as subsidiary "associate charity". It was known to be spending roughly £2m more than its almost £20m-a-year income and was anxious to join forces with another charity to get back in the black. Indeed it had earlier been in discussions with Guide Dogs for the Blind and there were some within the RNIB who questioned the financial case for the merger.



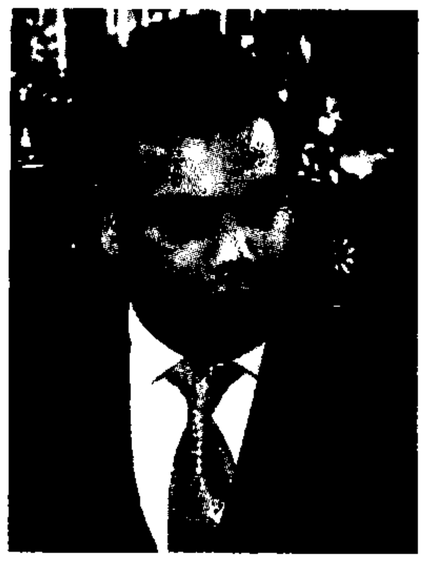
Thus staff at RNIB were a little concerned when they learned that 280 of its front-liners delivering vital services to the blind and partially sighted were to be transferred to Action on 1 April – the day the deal became official. They thought it made more sense to transfer staff the other way round. But their existing pay and conditions were preserved and Stephen Remington, Action's chief executive, assured them that the association between the charities would not mean cuts, but expansion, improvements in service and exciting opportunities for staff.

Three months later, he dramatically changed his tune. There is, it seems, an even bigger hole in the budget and staff at Action, including the 280 recently shipped in from the RNIB, now face redundancy or pay cuts. Some are themselves blind or partially sighted.

Insiders suggest there is now buck passing between the two charities over what has gone wrong and why those providing services and working directly with the blind and partially sighted are to face the axe.

Adding insult to injury for the former RNIB workers, some who have spent their entire working lives with the charity, is the news that they no longer qualify for redeployment within the RBIB itself. No wonder they believe their deployment was a cynical move by the RNIB to shift blame and responsibility for rationalising its services and staff to Action.

In the Back continues overleaf ➤



ANDREW SYMEOU

Greek tragedy, cont.

SPARE a thought for Andrew Symeou (pictured), the 21-year-old student extradited to Greece in July under a controversial European arrest warrants (EAW), accused of killing a fellow holidaymaker at a disco on the Greek island of Zakynthos.

Since then he has been held in jails first on the island and now just outside Athens, while awaiting an appeal for bail originally scheduled for 8 August but cancelled without explanation and with no further date set. It is his and his parents' nightmare come true.

Andrew's case was seen as a test of the EAW, which allows for fast-track extradition of accused people without any consideration of whether there is credible evidence against them or even if they have a case to answer. There was increased concern about whether the Bournemouth University student could get a fair trial, because there is evidence to suggest that the case against him was fabricated and obtained by Greek police who violently intimidated witnesses.

The frustration and distress for him and his family is that for 13 months the family lobbied the Greek authorities from the UK to review the police evidence and to ask for mutual legal assistance so that UK police could also investigate. Now, staying in Athens to visit and support their son, they are having little further success.

Andrew is accused of striking 18-year-old Jonathan Hiles, a talented roller hockey player, with such force that he fell off a stage at a disco, suffering fatal head injuries. The student denies ever punching anyone in his life.

Evidence in the case is fundamentally flawed. Witness statements seen by the *Eye*, from Mr Hiles' friends and originally describing the assailant as dark, clean shaven and wearing a blue polo shirt, were changed after it became known that Andrew had a distinctive goatee-type beard and was wearing a yellow T-shirt that night. Police and interpreters are listed as taking statements from different witnesses at the same time. CCTV footage of men seen hurrying away from the club immediately after the assault – one of whom matched Mr Hiles' friends' original description – is now apparently missing.

Even more disturbing is that two statements apparently implicating Andrew were obtained by Greek police from two of his friends after they had been detained for eight hours and both physically and verbally assaulted. The statements were in Greek and the two teenagers had no idea what they were putting their names to when they signed them. They retracted them the moment they were freed, and reported their treatment by police to British consular officials.

Andrew had argued in the UK courts that he could not get a fair trial in Greece because of the "bad faith" of the police. He is not a fugitive, has never been in any kind of trouble before, and has been offered an apartment in Athens where he can stay with his family. So how much longer must he stay in jail waiting for the slow wheels of justice to turn and the courts to release a young man who is patently innocent?

BRITISH WATERWAYS

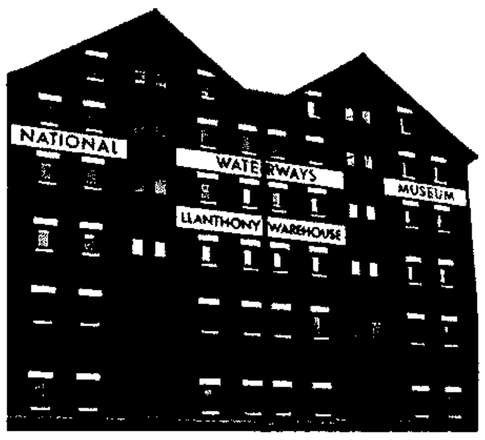
Sinking feeling

THE National Waterways Museum at Gloucester Docks is likely to be sunk in the latest round of massive cuts to British Waterways' budget. It will close at the end of the month if volunteers can't be found to run it.

City bosses in Gloucester, including mayor Chris Witts, himself a former barge skipper, fear that losing the museum (pictured) will hamper their ability to draw tourists to the docks area's shops and other attractions. The Civic Trust is trying to recruit volunteers to take over the museum, which is already closed several days a week and has started to shed staff.

British Waterways (BW) had to make £10m of painful savings, with 100 jobs lost, to deal with last year's cuts (see *Eye* 1236), widely blamed on absurd overspending by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in 2006 and on the fiasco of rural payments to farmers. But its grant from Defra is to be slashed by a further £4.6m in 2010-11.

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA), representing bitterly disappointed canal and river users, said the cuts were very worrying. They come on top of BW's existing £30m shortfall to maintain the waterways in their current state of repair. It is starting to gather evidence of safety hazards and deteriorating maintenance along the UK's rivers and canals.



Meanwhile British Waterways' plan to leave the public sector altogether and become a charitable body akin to the National Trust goes full steam ahead. BW announced that after a "positive initial response" to the idea, it is preparing expanded proposals on future governance and fundraising.

However, its recent attempts to raise money outside the public sector haven't been a raging success. Besides state funding, BW has a large property portfolio which is supposed to be an earner. According to the latest accounts, that property's value fell by 15 percent last year, while BW's share of losses from joint property ventures was £33m, thanks to "lower than forecast values in property development work in progress". Man the lifeboats!

VAUXHALL SALE

Magna karma

VAUXHALL workers were said to be "devastated" by last week's announcement that their firm had been bought by Magna.

And no wonder: GM's sale of its European operations to the Canadian car parts supplier means that workers at Luton and Ellesmere Port now face the Curse of Barbara – named after Barbara Judge (pictured), the ultimate climber of the greasy pole, aka "the atomic kitten", who runs the UK Atomic Energy Authority when not attending to her dozens of other directorships.

Lady Judge is Magna's only UK director, having joined the board on the recommendation of Oleg Deripaska, the Russian oligarch and holiday companion of Peter Mandelson. Deripaska has also suffered from the Curse of Barbara, losing squillions of dollars since he first met her. In August 2007 he spent $1.5bn acquiring a one-fifth stake in Magna, and in return for his investment he was allowed to nominate directors to represent his interests. Since Judge came aboard, the value of his shares has more than halved, and he has had to give them back to his bank.

Mandelson said last week that Barbara Judge and her Canadian colleagues would bring "stability" for Vauxhall workers; but students of the atomic kitten's record in personnel management may not share his optimism. Last year she joined the board of Massey Energy, an American coal producer based in Richmond, Virginia, which competes directly with the nuclear industry and uses heavily destructive surface-mining practices such as mountain-top removal. It has an appalling record for corporate responsibility and has paid out millions of dollars in fines for major safety violations.

Don Blankenship, the company's chairman, president and CEO, is notorious as one of the most ruthless anti-union bosses in America. In April he announced that Massey's earnings had risen by 25 percent in the first quarter of the year – and simultaneously ordered that wages and benefits for his employees be cut by an average of 6 percent. Union officials at Vauxhall fear the worst, and who can blame them?

FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE

You Werrett well!

THE stumbling commercialisation of the Forensic Science Service (see *Eyes* 1239 & 1242) is providing lashings of the usual gravy for senior executives who always seem keen on such proposals.

When the FSS was converted into a separate government-owned company, teed up for privatisation, at the end of 2005, it was also "restructured" to compete in the market for forensic science that the government was keen to manufacture (so far without success). All it has produced is a financial headache… and lots of fees for advisers and consultants.

With the board looking for businessmen rather than scientists to sort things out, chief executive and career forensic scientist David Werrett was forced to resign on 31 July 2007. FSS chairman Bill Griffiths claimed Werrett was "leaving the business after nearly 33 years", commending him for "an outstanding career as a forensic scientist" and as having been "instrumental in ensuring, as CEO, the transition of the company from an agency to a government owned company". For his trouble he received around £600,000 in "compensation for loss of office". But was Werrett really leaving? It seems not.

Companies House records show that three weeks earlier Werrett – who has not been replaced – had set up his own company, Cedere Ltd. And, surprise surprise, Cedere Ltd now earns significant sums from… the Forensic Science Service! Figures released to the *Eye* under freedom of information laws show that since April 2008 it has received £72,000 for "consultancy". Meanwhile, as part of the latest restructuring, 800 slightly less well paid jobs really are being cut, with the sacked staff unlikely to return as consultants employed by tax-efficient service companies.

You can contact the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017 or email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk

In the City

I SHALL huff and I shall puff and I shall disqualify you from a job you don't have, probably don't want and certainly don't need.

That was the Peter Mandelson bluff last Friday towards the corporate rapists of MG Rover, who took a gullible government and a worried workforce for a £45m ride. Unless you surrender and disqualify yourselves from being directors, we will come in and get you, threatened the business secretary – desperate to keep up the political spin of taking tough action over a New Labour-fashioned fiasco. Come and get us, say the chortling five very fat pigs.

Just how serious is the threat of successful disqualification proceedings? Not very, judging by the report of Mandelson's own government inspectors, who, after four years investigating the 2005 collapse of the car company, find no room in their near 800 pages for words such as "conspiracy", "fraud", "theft", "criminality" or even "illegal". More often the word is just "inappropriate".

They pointedly do not recommend – as previous inspectors in other reports have done - taking such action against the owners of Phoenix Venture Holdings (PVH), which acquired MG Rover from BMW in 2000. Instead there are references to the possible need for matters to be tested by "court proceedings" – if thought necessary given legal uncertainties. These seem more an invitation to a civil claim from the MG Rover liquidators, although even then there could be hurdles of cost and legal precedent.

Nor, it seems, has any such disqualification action been recommended against the MG Rover directors by the liquidators PricewaterhouseCoopers, who by law have to make a report on the conduct of those running failed companies usually within six months of appointment. And the Serious Farce Office (another example of Mandelson tough talk) did not want to know after reading the £16m exercise which is largely telling the public what it already knew – that the government encouraged the handing-over of a failed business to small-time chancers whose agenda was filling their boots. Greed is not yet a crime; otherwise the courts would be full of bankers.

"*To a limited extent*, legal issues could arise in connection with the payments made to or for the benefit of members of the Phoenix consortium… In particular, *there might be said to be legal issues*… The relevant law is in some respects *uncertain* and we do not think it appropriate for us to express any concluded view… The points should rather, it seems to us, be aired, *if and so far as necessary*, in court proceedings with full legal argument… Those consequences should be determined, *if at all*, in court proceedings." (Italics added by the *Eye*.)

Read carefully, this is hardly a ringing call to drive John Towers and his four friends from corporate life. No wonder the SFO was not up for the job. And no wonder Mandelson would prefer Towers et al to come out with their hands up and agree not to be company directors again. This is the chosen cheap route for dealing with individuals whom government wants to ban from the boardroom – 888 of the 1,252 disqualification orders issued in 2008-09 were voluntary.

The Phoenix pigs admit no wrongdoing – which is what this would amount to – and have made it clear that they will fight any disqualification proceedings, as they did the inspectors, and they have the money and, judging by the report, the legal ammunition.

Almost every deal criticised by the inspectors was based on professional advice from lawyers Eversheds and accountants Deloitte. Relying on legal advice is usually accepted as a get-out-of-jail card – although that defence is being tested in the US courts, where New York federal judge Jed Rakoff recently rejected a proposed settlement of the Securities & Exchange Commission's complaint against Bank of America for not fully disclosing the bonuses to be paid to Merrill Lynch bankers after the Merrill rescue a year ago.

BoA said it relied on legal advice for the non-disclosure, but Rakoff retorted that if that was all it took, "all a corporate officer… need offer by way of defence is that he or she relied on counsel… and the culpability of both the corporate officer and the company counsel will remain beyond scrutiny". Whether British judges would take such a hard line remains to be seen. They are usually sympathetic to fellow lawyers.

Mandelson's ministry does not like legal battles – deals, not contested disqualifications, are the norm – and certainly not against wealthy opponents. BIAS (Business, Innovation & Skills) is, after all, the successor to the old Department of Timidity & Inaction. Just how tough a fight it could be can be judged by the fact that the inspectors spent almost a year from June 2008 arguing about their criticisms with those they had criticised in order to produce their "on the one hand while on the other hand" conclusions.

Also, the report indicates that all along the way from 2005, when they were appointed, the inspectors were regularly in touch with Mandelson's men – in particular the Companies Investigation Branch of the Insolvency Service, which would bring any proceedings.

"We kept the CIB informed as to the issues we were proposing to investigate… We met representatives of CIB and lawyers from the DTI/ BERR on a regular basis throughout the inquiry to review progress," they say. Which suggests that if there were a dynamite case for disqualification it would be all tooled up and ready to go, rather than being prepared.

Only Peter Beale and Towers of the Phoenix pigs still have any UK directorships unconnected with Phoenix or MGR – one apiece – so not being a director would hardly be hardship.

The usual standby in a case like MG Rover, which went bust owing almost £1.3bn, is that the directors were trading while insolvent. But the inspectors firmly close that door by pointing to the ability to rely on negotiations with a possible Chinese partner, which continued right up to the death in April 2005.

However, their report does give lukewarm endorsement to possible civil action on two other issues. The strongest case seems to be that decisions were taken without proper board meetings to which all directors were invited. The usual trick was for the Phoenix Four and Kevin Howe, whom they hired to run MG Rover, to decide the deals that lined their pockets, omitting to invite the outside directors who would not benefit and might object. The inspectors point out that such selective board meetings are invalid, and so are the decisions they purport to make. The consequences of such invalid decisions – ie making the directors liable to repay any profits to the company – "should be determined, if at all, by court proceedings". This might be seen as encouraging the liquidators to seek recovery rather than the CIB to disqualify.

But even here the inspectors find legal weasel words to suggest there could be a defence. "The practical effects of a failure to give a director notice of a meeting may, however, be mitigated," they say before going on to give three examples. Still, the inspectors concluded that the Phoenix pigs "paid insufficient regard to legal requirements" – perhaps the nearest they come to an accusation of illegality.

The other area in which the inspectors show some interest in legal action relates to the "unreasonably large" payments taken out of the loss-making car maker being "unfairly prejudicial" to the non-voting PVH shareholders, so breaching the "no conflict, no profit" rules for directors when dealing with the companies they run. This issue is raised particularly regarding the deal whereby Towers, Beale, Howe, Nick Stephenson and John Edwards rather than MG Rover acquired the Rover car loan book, the appropriately entitled Project Platinum. This deal has paid out £2.7m and could yet pay out a further £13.6m.

The six directors not in on the scam were given "inaccurate and misleading" information at a "deficient and misleading" presentation by the scamsters. This deal, say the inspectors, "arguably engaged both the no conflict and no profit rules" and the pigs, because of their fiduciary relationship to MG Rover, could according to previous legal rulings be made to "account to the person to whom the [fiduciary] obligation is owed for any benefit or gain".

But the inspectors admit "the relevant law is in some respects uncertain". Nevertheless, they say that regardless of the present law "there is much to be said for the view that it should not be possible for shareholders to approve transactions to the financial prejudice of their company". Really? That is especially so, they say, if, as in the case of MG Rover, its survival depended on finding a partner and that was far from certain – as transpired. This again might appear to be an invitation for action by the liquidators.

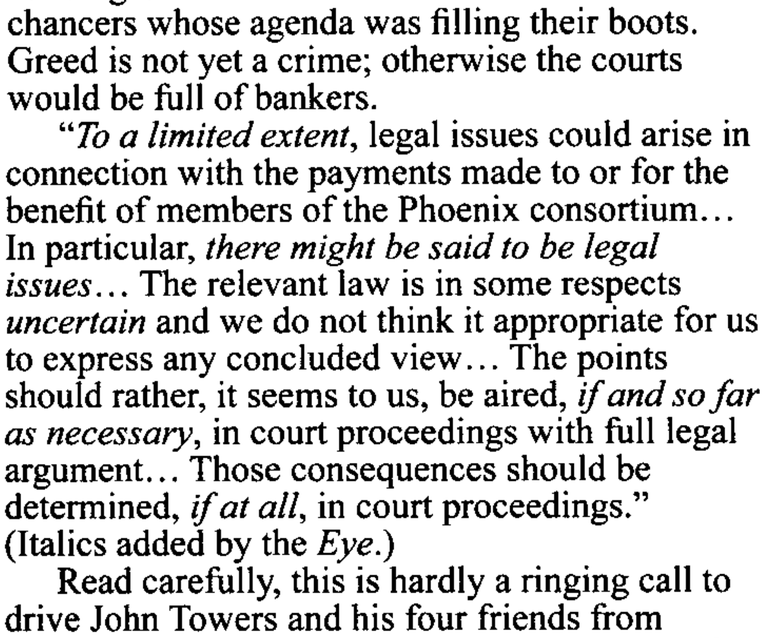
Even here, though, the Phoenix pigs may have a defence – a legal case called Duomatic, under which conduct can be approved by shareholders informally. This, the inspectors say, could be an answer to any complaint of a breach of directors' duty.

But – more legal weasel words – it "is an open question" whether this defence might "not necessarily" also be an answer to "unfair prejudice", such as where millions were transferred off to a Guernsey trust for the benefit of the pigs without the knowledge or approval of the non-voting PVH shareholders. These shares were held by trusts for the benefit of the MG Rover employees, executive directors and car dealers.

The Duomatic defence was also used by the pigs to defend their decisions to strip out assets such as tax losses, the Longbridge site, dealer properties and the Xpart parts business and to inject them into companies they owned that were isolated from MG Rover's losses and liabilities. The inspectors suggest "it could be contended" that because MG Rover was loss-making and teetering on insolvency, Duomatic could be trumped by another case – West Mercia Safetywear – which says that then creditors' interests, not those of shareholders, should prevail.

On the sales of assets at less than full market value, the pigs are said to have legal defences such as a lack of evidence of "intention" to sell at less than market value, or legal advice on Xpart that "endorsed" or "could have been taking as approving the transaction", or that the proceeds

☛ *See over...*



"Who are you and how did you get in here?"

City Turns Over New Leaf

"Compassion's hit $140 a barrel!"

NUMBER CRUNCHING

£42m Amount taken out by 5 Phoenix directors as MG Rover collapsed

£40m Statutory redundancy paid to 5,000 sacked MG Rover workers

were used to benefit MG Rover or that inter-group transfers of assets "are likely to be unobjectionable". Even when Beale paid Eversheds £417,000 it was owed by the Phoenix Four, not MG Rover, the day before it collapsed, the car company was also potentially legally liable for the bill.

The inspectors found no defence for the £11m pocketed offshore from the sale, with Barclays' help, of the carmaker's tax losses for no payment to MG Rover – "assets of MGR were thus used to produce benefits for certain of its directors" and "may be to the prejudice of creditors". But even here the pigs had their defenders. Deloitte gave evidence that it "wasn't unusual" for tax losses to be surrendered around a group for nil value. Not when a company is in financial difficulties, countered the inspectors.

Clearly there are even more fortunes awaiting m'learned friends from MG Rover – if not its employees and other creditors.

The fact that the inspectors found no major fault with Deloitte's actions – instead there is a constant mantra of "relatively minor" failures and a verdict that the firm acted "quite properly" – may create a problem for the Accountancy & Investigation Disciplinary Board, which since 2005 has been investigating the auditors' work on the accounts for MG Rover and Phoenix Venture Holdings in 2000 to 2003, for which Deloitte was paid £31m. Will the AIDB also now find only "relatively minor" failings?

But there are examples where it might be considered that the CIB could and should have a go at individual directors:

● Beale, for destroying evidence required by the investigation on his computer hard drive the day after the inspectors were appointed, and then lying about it.

● Stephenson, for paying £1.7m to his girlfriend, Dr Qu Li, for consultancy services without full disclosure to the MG Rover board of their relationship.

● Brian Parker, who solicited and received a £100,000 payment from St Modwen Properties after negotiating a deal on the Longbridge site when employed by the pigs. The inspectors concluded this was a bribe for a breach of fiduciary duty – "he did not dispute the suggestion or indeed make any substantive response".

But will even this limited action be taken, given the legal loopholes? The sorry story of MG Rover began and ended with political spin – government encouragement of the Phoenix pigs as saviours in 2000 and government desire to avoid losing votes in West Midlands marginals in 2005. The same game is being played out again over the inspectors' report. That's why Mandelson would like the pigs to do his job for him. Oink oink.

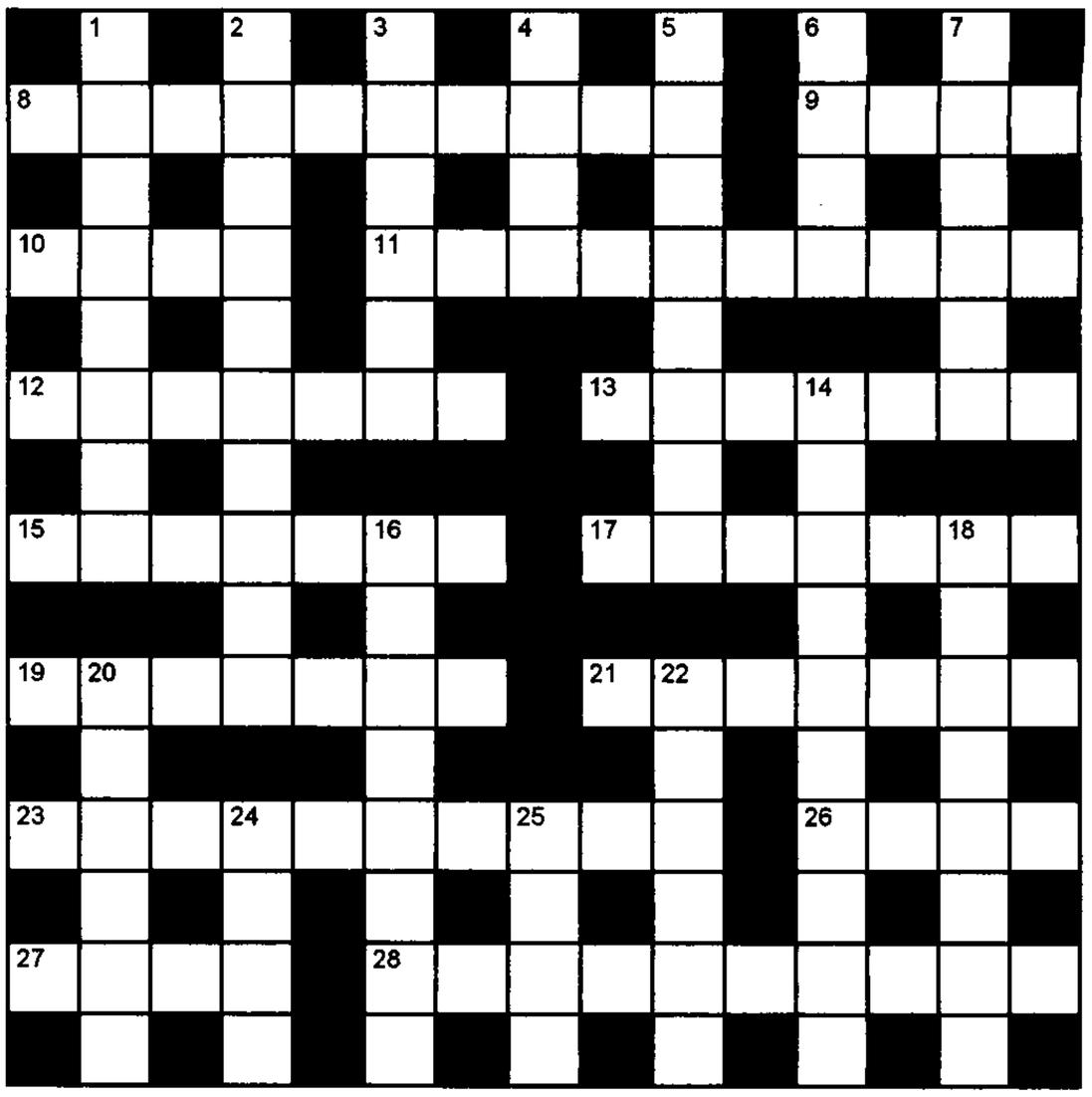
'Slicker'

Mr Beale also said that he had probably known very little about what levels of remuneration Dr Li had received in the past, that there was no attempt to find out what the market rate was for services such as those Dr Li provided

– The report on MG Rover's demise explores how Dr Qu Li (who happened to be having an affair with another director, Nick Stephenson), came to be paid £1.7m for just 15 months' "consultancy" work

EYE CROSSWORD 400

by Cyclops



£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 25 September 2009

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk

ACROSS

8 Major wouldn't describe this, his old Eye feature, after deputy is nobbled (10)
9 Over profound, being pissed (4)
10 Shop for a princess stocking elasticised lingerie tops (4)
11 Ex-president, i.e. backing measure carried by worthless bunch (10)
12 Loner starts to rile embarrassed Conservative leader on employment (7)
13 Nation hosts King Cyclops – groovy! (7)
15 About time a model screwed fondly remembered bunch of co-workers? (3,4)
17 Not much of a month, shifting poo by dead creature (7)
19 Guards fighting holes (7)
21 Making a comeback, Conservative "One Road" party – the old sword carrier (7)
23 Hallowed co-stars can, on getting pissed (10)
26 Observe Amy ultimately pursuing an award (4)
27 11 getting end away, penetrating quiet religious adherent (4)
28 Kinky catsuit with left and right openings hugging one like Mother Teresa? (10)

DOWN

1 Relaxation before a leader of Labour gets gloomy (8)
2 Very large singing Scouse PM once was a swinger (10)
3 Shakes, being topless – beastly tits (6)
4 Scrap before start of strip teases (4)
5 Mesmerising pointy bust, hot and cold externally (8)
6 Having an erection, turn over (there and no further!) (2,2)
7 Heseltine, Westland: much of it forgotten – you can't get more modern than that (6)
14 Said by gloater dancing odiously round Tory left wing (1,4,3,2)
16 Premieres of actor Michael Caine's Rocky he can't bring himself to recall (8)
18 Before "Grease" a girl could be virgin (5,3)
20 Slow movement of a very un-PC European squeezing Cyclops (6)
22 Be a luvvie – drink is a pain in the arse (4,2)
24 What's that you say? Poked in posh car somewhere in Germany? (4)
25 Bollocks stagger when twirled (4)

NB. This is the 400th Cyclops crossword!
(When the grid to this puzzle is completed, the perimeter squares will spell out a suitable message.)

Crossword 399 winner: JOHN HAWKINS

ACROSS: 8 Viagra 9 Neutered 10 Ancestor 11 Toyota 12/1 Dissolution of parliament 17 Badmouthing 19 Accent 21 Untangle 23 Profound 24/14 Thrown out 25 Knee-trembler.

DOWN: 1 Onions 2 Pigheaded 3 React 4 Inner 5 Mount Fuji 6 Needy 7 Sextant 13 Short fuse 15 In general 16 Obscure 18 Blower 20 Elfin 21 Under 22 Totem.

YOBS

HUSBAND

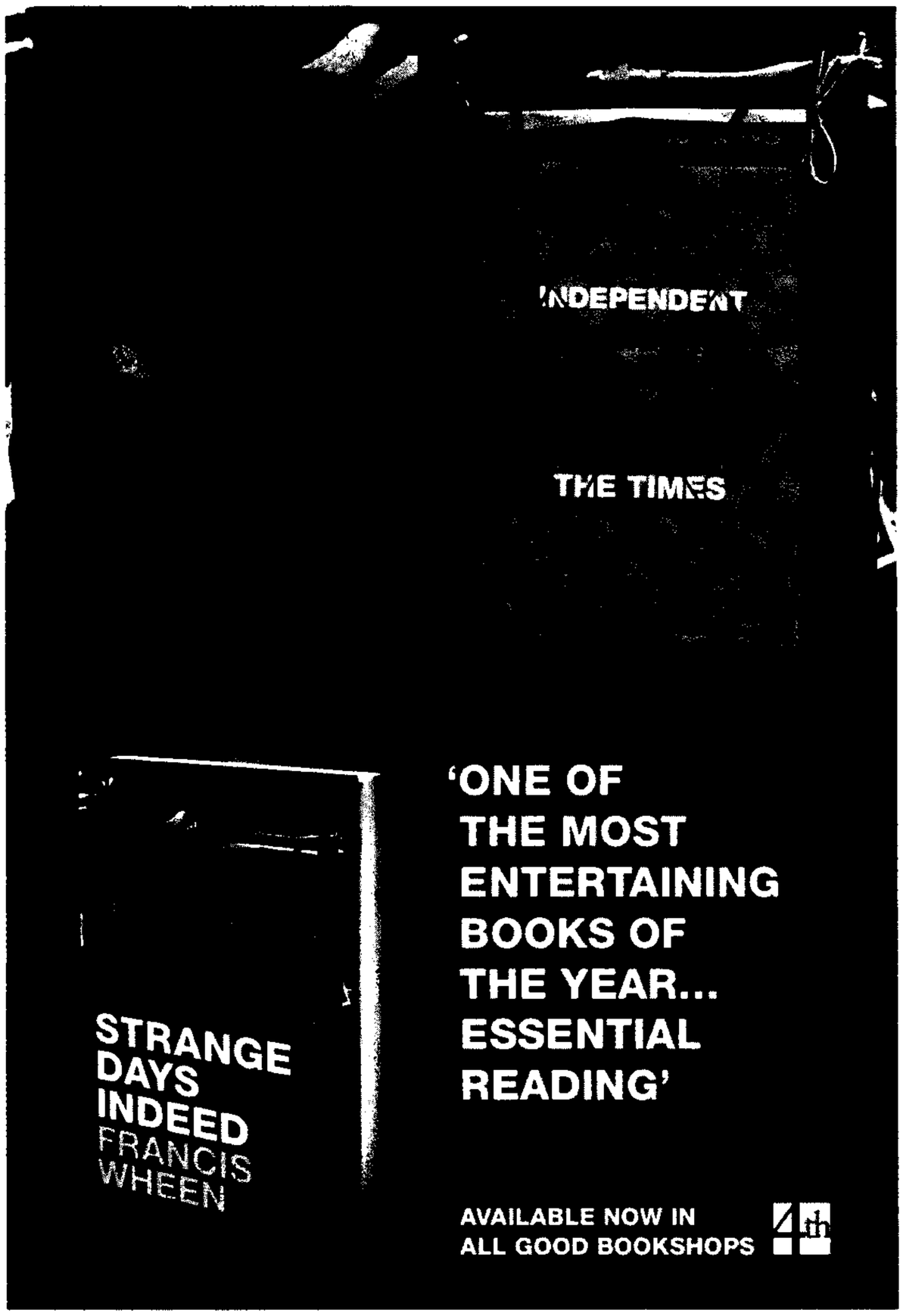
wisdom

If you're not a big fan of party games, simply have
a word with Witan. As experts in delivering long-term growth,
we aim to see that everyone's a winner.

Witan **investment trust**

0800 082 81 80 | www.witan.com quoting ref. 6041

Witan Investment Trust is an equity investment. Please remember, past performance is not a guide to future performance, and the value of your shares and the income from them can rise and fall, so you may not get back the amount originally invested. Issued and approved by Witan Investment Services Limited. Witan Investment Services Limited is registered in England no. 5272533 of 201 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3AE. Witan Investment Services Limited provides investment products and services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Calls may be recorded for our mutual protection and to improve customer service.



STUBS

SUPPORT OUR ARMED SERVICES

STUBS is a new non-political charitable initiative to show care, support and respect for our armed services. We currently host injured servicemen and women from Headley Court for Premiership Rugby at London WASPS home games, and we distribute unsold match tickets to service veterans who would not otherwise be able to attend the event.

Royal Marine Mark Ormrod, a triple amputee, receiving his Afghanistan medal

LONDON WASPS

We're looking to expand our work nationally.
We need regional organisers, supporters and volunteers to help us. We also need sponsors, and donations, to help with our startup and running costs. Please help us.

For more information, visit www.stubs.org.uk
Email: mail@stubs.org.uk Phone: 01494-811500

Registered In England #06817457
A non-profit company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity #1128980

EXCLUSIVE TICKETS FOR EYE READERS

An Evening with Private Eye
at the National Theatre
Monday 14 December
7pm (1hr 30m)

Ian Hislop is joined by Katy Brand, Craig Brown, Harry Enfield, Richard Ingrams, Lewis Macleod and John Sessions to take a satirical look at the newsworthy events and people of 2009.

Afterwards, the Eye team will be signing copies of Private Eye books including the 2009 Annual, and Dumb Britain 2.

This event is now sold out to the general public, but an allocation of tickets has been held back exclusively for Eye readers!

Tickets £7.50. No booking fee.
Guests subject to availability

To book, call 020 7452 3000 and quote 'Eye reader offer'

SAVE £11

PRIVATE EYE

7 GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

1. It's a **GREAT** magazine
2. Enjoy massive savings – **PAY ONLY £1.08** a copy
3. Free Delivery – your low cost subscription includes delivery by first class mail direct to your door
4. Never miss an issue
5. Free access to digital downloads
6. The perfect gift
7. **26 issues for ONLY £28***

www.subsonline.co.uk

01795 414 870

❑ YES, I would like to subscribe to Private Eye.

❑ YOUR DETAILS (for gift subscriptions – this is where we send the gift card)

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Mobile/tel.no

Email

DON'T MISS OUT. WE SEND OUR BEST OFFERS BY EMAIL. Private Eye is serious about protecting your privacy. We do not share or sell data about our subscribers.

❑ GIFT SUBSCRIPTION Please send Private Eye to:

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

PAYMENT DETAILS Rates for one year (26 issues)
UK £28* Europe (Airmail) £34 Rest of world (Airmail) £38

❑ by cheque payable to PRIVATE EYE

❑ by credit card. Please debit my Visa ❑ Mastercard ❑ Switch ❑

Card number:

Valid from Expiry date Switch issue no

Cardholder's signature Date

HOW TO ORDER:

Visit www.subsonline.co.uk

Call our order hotline 01795 414 870
(Mon to Fri 8.30am-8.00pm, Sat 9.00am-1.00pm)

Complete the order form and send with payment to:
PRIVATE EYE, PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA

Source code: N1245

PRIVATE EYE

Advertise here and reach over 818,000 potential customers, it's so easy!
(Source: NRS, Dec 2008)

Display Advertising please call Odile Barclay on 020 7878 2366
Semi-Display Advertising please call Robert Grant on 020 7878 2308
Classified Advertising please call Angela Lawrence on 020 7240 9129 / 020 7878 2314

www.eyeadvertise.co.uk **email: private-eye@tenalpspublishing.com**

£2.75 per word (£25 min charge). Centred box £15. Box number £15. For just £10 extra your ad can also appear on our website: **www.eyeadvertise.co.uk** All charges inc VAT

Would advertisers please note that copy deadline for Classified / Semi Display for 2nd October issue will be 1pm, Tuesday 22nd September

Would advertisers please note that copy deadline for Display for 2nd October issue will be 5pm, Wednesday 23rd September

Eye Art

CAST BRONZE PORTRAIT HEADS OR TORSO made from 3D scan or photos. sales@rapidart.co.uk 01628 622 768

Eye Wear

PUKKA PYJAMAS AND NIGHTSHIRTS for men, women and boys. www.pukkapyjamas.co.uk

Eye to Eye

Replying to a box number is as simple as sending a letter, just send your reply to Private Eye, Ten Alps Publishing, 9 Savoy Street, London, WC2E 7HR. Remember to quote on your envelope the box number to which you are replying.

LOVING LINKS. UK's leading discreet adult dating service since 1994. Unique top level one-to-one matching service and fast online email system. Call David for a chat on 08456 440 919.

KCDATING
SPEED DATING for **Grown -Ups Younger Grown – Ups, Sugar Daddies & Toy Boys!**
Book directly ONLINE for autumn events.
Sept. 23 LONDON (West End) **35 +**
Sept. 30 NORWICH 35+
Nov. 4 LONDON (City) **25 – 49**
Dec. 9 LONDON (West End) **Sugar Daddy & Toy Boy SPECIAL!**
www.kcdating.co.uk
For individual bespoke **Private Client MATCHMAKING**
arrangements covering London/Home Counties, South Coast & East Anglia. Please Tel. David Mintz on **01728 635 064** and **07986 213 120**

PERSON TO PERSON – non-internet magazine for new friends/partners. Est. 1984: still going 'cos it works! Details (Dept PE), PO BOX 40, Minehead TA24 5YS. Tel: 01643 709 509.

EXECUTIVE ONLINE DATING. Professionals only. FREE to join/browse/e-mail. www.rhodesharveydating.co.uk

HARD-WORKING NURSE seeks less pressurized times ahead. Attractive, articulate good company. Wit and womanly warmth awaits. Telephone: 07765 050 305

LORD OR LADY GNOME SEEKING LOVE? We are a bespoke and discerning introduction agency for like minded individuals age 50 plus in the Greater London and Home counties areas. Call Carpe Diem Personal Introductions 020 8313 0918. 7 days. www.carpediemintros.com

THE OVER FIFTIES DATING SITE www.onlineseniordates.com

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN LADIES WANT TO MEET YOU! Call 01423 566 766 or visit www.Russian-rendezvous.co.uk

INTELLIGENT, extremely solvent male seeks the ultimate sugar babe. Interested? classiccar@breakthru.com

PRIVATELY EDUCATED MALE 26, seeks female correspondents willing to write to sad and lonely life prisoner. Need direct address for replies. Thomas VN4190 HMP LongLartin Evesham WR118TZ

CAN I REALLY BE 50, ATTACHED & BORED SILLY? Well, yes...Guy with spare time and money seeks help in using both to exciting yet discreet effect. London.dyingofthelight@live.com

WONDERING WHERE ALL THE GOOD GUYS ARE?
Are you a single woman, mid 20s – mid 30s, professional, university educated who feels that finding the right partner to share your life with is more of a priority than finding someone to start a family with? Then look no further. We are a bespoke, personalised introductions agency, established for over 25 years and we work like head hunters for our clients who pay our fees. There really is no fee for you and no catch – we are simply on the look out for the right kind of women to introduce to some of our very eligible men. Please contact Zara Heber Percy at the County Register,zara@thecountyregister.com, mobile 07957 395 366 website: www.thecountyregister.com

SANSATIONAL – WELL, NO; NOTEWORTHY? perhaps: a tall slim (yes) blue eyes, blondish, 66 female from Dorset, wltm a gentle gentleman, educated tall honest fun, same age, for eating out/ in (I cook), theatre, cinema, country/city walks. Philanderers – no. 07801 482 139

BREATH TAKINGLY FEMININE redhead,privately educated. Soft/romantic/playful,seeks FUN/FIT/ Masculine/single male 45-55 for Gen-Relationship. allwoman@mail.com

THE COUNTRYSIDE DATING SITE: www.countrysidelove.co.uk

Eye Novelties

STUFF YOUR STOCKINGS @www.gizmoandwidget.com Shopping for fun

TITLES-LORD, LADY ETC. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

Eye Want

WISDEN CRICKETERS ALMANACKS Wanted for private buyer. I will pay a fair price. Please call William on 01480 810 416 or email on furmedgefamily@btinternet.com

Eye Travel

HALF TERM FAMILY BARGAIN. GULET YACHT CRUISES WHEN THE AEGEAN SEA IS WARMEST. Departures Oct 24th and 31st. Breathtaking itinerary. Relaxed, spacious(24m) traditional Turkish gulet. Delicious food. British crewed. Windsurf and Dive options. 6 Double cabins en suite. Sleeps 12 comfortably. ENTIRE boat-12 persons ONLY £3,200 FULL BOARD (excl drink, Dalaman flights, airport transfers, options). PARENTS DO THE MATHS! BOOK DIRECT OWNER: families@laidbackgulet.com

REFRESH YOUR SPIRITS. Norfolk self-catering cottages for the discerning. www.countrysidecottagesnorfolk.com

BERLIN S/C LUXURY HOLIDAY FLAT for rent – see www.berlin4us.blogspot.com or call richard 01837 89257 or 07967 905 858

"SINGLES" WEEK GULET YACHT CRUISES WHEN THE AEGEAN SEA IS WARMEST. SEPT-OCT. STUNNING ITINERARY. Relaxed, spacious (27m) traditional turkish gulet. Delicious food. British Managed, fully crewed. Windsurf/Dive options. SINGLE OCCUPANCY, DOUBLE CABIN EN SUITE FOR ONLY £795 PER PERSON. FULL BOARD.(excl drinks/Dalaman flights-transfers/options). NO NEED TO FIND FRIENDS, BOOK DIRECT (OWNER)- Singles@laidbackgulet.com

Eye Bet

HORSERACING TIPS. Tremendous WINNING record.No win,no pay. Free two day trial,quote EYE11 at www.highflyersracing.com/promo

Eye Business

LES VOS FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS IN ERESSOS. 4 sale 2 rent www.lesvoshaus.com email info@lesvoshaus.com

AUTHORS/ JOURNALISTS. Where is your curiosity? I have not received one reply to my advertisement in issues 1242 and 1243. Telephone 0115 932 4946

GOT A BUSINESS OR PERSONAL DILEMMA YOU WANT TO RESOLVE? www.calmrise.com

PHOTOGRAPHER SEEKS CHAMPION, internationally successful, solo exhibition NPG London 07976 737 337

PRIVATE FINANCE REQUIRED FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT. Absolute transparency. www.ukpremises.co.uk

EYE-OPENING OPPORTUNITY! Boutique Hotel, holiday cottages, 35 acres of red squirrel parkland. Good plane/train accessibility, close to and between Northumberland's Heritage Coastline and National Park. Ambitious re-launch plans after ten years trading, good traction, strong team but cash-strapped due to property market collapse. Would suit wealthy (<£1M) JV partner or Investor to provide term loan gaining asset-backed,double market returns plus tax benefit. Plus a great holiday venue!" Box Number 305409

Eye Charity

BUY MY NOVEL FOR £1 to raise funds for autistic sons education. www.halsfund.co.uk

NEOLITHIC 'CATHEDRAL' FUNDS REQUIRED FOR EXCAVATION. Orkney Archaeology Society. PO Box 6213 Kirkwall

STUBS supports injured servicemen and service veterans. Donors, supporters and volunteers needed. Please visit www.stubs.org.uk or call 01494-811500 for more information.

RUNNING 172 MILES FOR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY! Please sponsor me. Money goes direct to charity. Thank you! www.justgiving.com/nickgschallenge

Eye Read

BRUSSELS LAID BARE by Marta Andreasen, MEP. £12 by post. www.stedwardspress.co.uk

Eye Buy/Sell

WE BUY PRE-63 EYES, OZ, IT Friends etc- underground@shoreditch.net

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100-£3000. Not a shop just a shed. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. TN12 5JB. Telephone 01622 871 353.

PEEVED WITH POLITICIANS? Come down to Richer Sounds for some straight talking. We'll give you honest advice and the cheapest prices in town on TV, home cinema and hi-fi. Call 0845 900 1230 for your nearest store or check out www.richersounds.com http://www.richersounds.com

500 BACK ISSUES, BOUND, '70 '80 '90 Tel: 01638 751 918

PRIVATE EYES FOR SALE, 1000 FROM EARLY 70s To FEB 2008 (SOME DUPLICATED) SENSIBLE OFFERS TO Graham on 07956 355 545 or grahamj458@aol.com

EYES 1974-DATE COMPLETE. £100, buyer collects. Alton Hants 01420 83942

DO YOU LIKE CLASSIC WATCHES? US TOO! www.welikewatches.co.uk

550+ EYES, earliest 1988, 685-current. Missing about 20. Interested? barking.vicar@gmail.com

PE VOL 1 AND 2. V RARE (verified by tony rushton) good condition. Highest offer call 07960 954 167

To book your advert online go to www.eyeadvertise.co.uk

Eye Law

HAVE YOU BEEN LET DOWN BY YOUR SOLICITORS OR DOES YOUR SOLICITOR LACK THAT CUTTING EDGE? Ahmud & Co. Solicitors, the lawyers that make a difference. www.ja-solicitors.com Tel: 020 8886 1111 or info@ja-solicitors.com No Legal Aid.

SOLICITORS NEGILGENCE CLAIMS? Ring specialist solicitors 0121 200 1400 or wkhan@hma-law.co.uk

DIVORCED/DIVORCING? Defend your assets/income. Recession good opportunity. We fight your corner. Thirty years experience. Contact Divorce Dept, *Pellmans*, 1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TB. Tel: 01865 884 400 mail@pellmans.co.uk

WORRIED ABOUT CARE HOME FEES? You may have to sell the family home (Sceptics: check the Independent http://tinyurl.com/protectyourhome). IHT/CGT-neutral option to protect your home: homeprotectiontrust@googlemail.com

YES, you can now come direct to a barrister. Tel: 020 7833 9625.

THE 'NO WIN – NO FEE' Specialists: Professional Negligence (www.proneg.co.uk). Disputed Wills & Employment Law (www.sblaw.co.uk). Accident Claims (www.newdeal-fairdeal.co.uk). Free case assessment. Telephone: 0808 155 6389.

Eye Move

CAPE TOWN HOUSE: Stunning sea views. 3x3. Pool. Double garage. Photos and details: guyanderson62@yahoo.com

19TH CENTURY KENT LODGE, 2 double bedrooms, large reception. High ceilings original floors. New kitchen and bathroom. Gas CH. Planning permission to extend. 1/4 acre mature garden & stream. Parking, Nr ML station. London 50 mins, £299,000 freehold 01622 871 353 or 07956 516 606

Eye Need

EXCITING NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE SEEKS MAJOR BENEFACTOR. Help us transform thousands of young people's lives and build nationally recognised brand. Full business plans available. admo749@yahoo.co.uk

INVEST IN ME! Songwriter/Composer seeks financial help to pitch her songs. www.songsofjade.com

£3,000 FOR BREAST CANCER TREATMENT. Please help. HSBC 71464809 400437. maggie.1of1@hotmail.co.uk

SINGLE MOTHER WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS four dependent children. wants to go back to africa. grateful for any help. BARCLAYS 208417; 10646822. MOBILE 07897 217 911

£5000 NEEDED TO PAY DEBT AND STUDIES. Barclays 20-67-90 40818798

ABERDEEN STUDENT FREE SPEECH NEWSPAPER needs funds £1000+ editor@vox-pop.org.uk, www.vox-pop.org.uk

£150K TO PART FUND THE PURCHASE OF A GEORGIAN HOUSE/SUCCESSFUL HOTEL ON THE COAST. I will provide my benefactor with a stylish, fully stocked, fully staffed secret hideaway, including exclusive use of the whole house in one of the most beautiful parts of England. Absolute discretion guaranteed. secrethideaway@live.co.uk.

MY LAST CHANCE AT TRYING FOR A MUCH WANTED BABY, desperate for funds to pay for IVF treatment, please help me Natwest. 60-13-38 50012509

PATRON SOUGHT FOR FINANCIAL REPRIEVE. Final year student Royal Academy of Arts. Barclays 20-27-94 00922692. ras.artist@gmail.com

BACKER NEEDED FOR TV/FILM SCRIPTS. If successful, money returned with profits. £10,000. HBOS 804627 01085248 mal_content@msn.com

CLIMATE CHANGE KNIGHTS SEEK FUNDING to retrofit their Camelot! Co-op 08-93-00 13217482

DAUGHTER 20 BRUNEL STUDENT Needs Graphics/Design 1yr Placement Paid/Unpaid, London, Good kid. Blockhead@btinternet.com

TRAINEE ALCOHOLIC REQUIRES FUNDING TO COMPLETE STUDIES. 11-18-11 14509277. Fankhs!

BANK VULTURES CIRCLING OUR HOME, please help! Unemployed 11 months, 3 kids, 5 months/£9k arrears due to mis-sold ASU insurance. Now working but catchup impossible, every £1 helps. Halifax 11-00-01 05078367. Many thanks

A NEW EDEN PROJECT? Lifetime ambition to create new landmark garden. Award winning designer/gardener seeks business partner. mark.a.walker@btinternet.com

OFFER FROM OXFORD FOR POSTGRAD BUT NO MONEY Would a kind and generous person fund/sponsor me for postgraduate MSc at Oxford to achieve my dream (requires £17,240). M – 07950106558 Barclays 20-57-06 60889393

UNSUNG GENIUS (REALLY!) seeks philanthropic gesture(s) to change world (really!) When choosing between catfood or stamps, the cat wins but society loses. Don't believe me? Rightcharlie.com or rightcharlie@gmail.com 20-46-60 23569659 don't say I didn't try.

IN A PICKLE AND STRUGGLING WITH £9K DEBT! Any help would be greatly appreciated HSBC 402432 51207369 Thank you :)

£30K NEEDED TO TAKE OVER A COUNTRY – legally, not the Mark Thatcher way! Co-op Bank. S/C: 08-93-00. A/C: 01075283. donboy667@yahoo.co.uk

NEEDED: £10,000.00 FOR OSTEOPATHY TRAINING. Anything towards this appreciated. Yorkshire 05-05-35 17441479

LIBERTARIAN SEEKS realistic home/internet earning opportunity to support political campaign. Contact: ron.hardy@rocketmail.com please

DESPERATE TO FINISH MSC CLIMATECHANGE. £600 tuition left. rent help needed. josiejo.wales@gmail.com HSBC 40-16-30 91148567

LAW GRADUATE COMPLETED LPC Needs Law Sector Employment or Training Contract Within London Area Please Help. law.graduate123@gmail.com

ACCEPTED INTO LCC FOR POST GRAD DIP. Broadcast Journalism. Opportunity of a lifetime, not covered by student grants/loans. Applied for bursaries, PDL and advertising – everything short of printing money myself. Any help appreciated; course and living £6,445 to £19,445. JL Harris 60-04-24 90201736

YOUNG FILM MAKER offers credits as 'producer' in exchange for £500 donations but anything else appreciated and will attract your name in the credits at the end. Synopsis available. Email: ourshortfilm2010@googlemail.com. First Direct 40-47-73 00987379

DAUGHTER (12), BRIGHT, (outstanding overall achievement award), bullied, desperately unhappy, needs hope. Wants Quaker school, (£12K pa), can't afford. Please help. Thank you. 40-02-11 31040006 kpc1960@talktalk.net

HONOURS GRADUATE NEEDS £3663 TUITION FEES FOR M.SC. in Sustainable Aquaculture Systems. "If nothing is done to stop the squandering of fish stocks the life of the oceans will face collapse and millions of people could starve". I want to help in this industry and make a difference. Please help! Tel: 07715 711 157.

Eye Services

PRIVATE LONDON CLINIC: (Moorgate/Old Street tubes) offers walk-in and postal sexual health services, online impotence treatment. Open evenings. Tel: 020 7490 8988. www.DrThom.com

VISITING SUIT TAILOR. Henry Herbert visits any time, any place. Suits £495. All Made in England. Telephone 020 7727 2485. Visit www.henryherbert.com

FIND ANYBODY: www.locateperson.net – James Black LL.B(Hons) expert private investigation, international +44 (0) 121 247 5550 and 07773 788389.

SPEECH LOOMING? Relax, I'll write it for you! You're due to speak at a wedding / dinner / event. Don;t waste time worrying. Lawrence: 07970 046 230 or www.greatspeechwriting.co.uk

STOP THE BUGGERS Professional Security Sweeps www.stopthebuggers.co.uk Email : info@stopthebuggers.co.uk Tel : 01342 719361

NEW 'NO WIN, NO FEE' for professional negligence, debt, employment and will dispute claims by specialist Solicitors. Freephone 0800 169 2133. www.halborg.com

VAT PROBLEMS? Taxman on your case?Speak to Eamon McNicholas.www.EamonMcNicholas.com

SLIDES/NEGATIVES onto CD/DVD. Digital photo restoration. Friendly, efficient service. www.digitiseyourphotos.co.uk

PERFECT ARM CANDY, almost any occasion; class, discretion, WSOH m7box@live.co.uk 07758 386 692

WANNA BE HAPPY? Then grab me as your life coach! www.happylifecoach.co.uk

BUSINESS RESCUE PRACTITIONERS. We look after Directors interests not the creditors 07092009165 www.centralgroup.biz

MICROSOFT EXCEL Spreadsheets, Data Analysis, Databases, Models built to requirement and emailed. Remote working, confidential MBA financial analyst team, long experience blue-chip to start-ups. Satisfaction or no payment. After sales support. 07815 933517 jake@vetroconsulting.com

BINDERS

Keep your PRIVATE EYE collection clean and tidy with our smart, dark blue binders – now with a new spine fitting for easier use.

Each binder holds 26 issues (a year's worth)

Price £10 (inc. p&p). For overseas orders please add £1 per binder.

ORDER ONLINE AT: **www.private-eye.co.uk**
CALL: **01795 414 870** for credit card orders or further information

Or complete this order form and send with your payment to: PRIVATE EYE BINDERS, PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.

No of binders_____ I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to Private Eye.

OR please charge MasterCard/Visa/Switch (Issue no_____) Expiry date_____

Card number

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone (in case we have a query with your order)

Email

☐ Yes, please keep me up to date with details of other products and services from Private Eye that may be of interest to me.

NO MORE UNTIDY GARDEN EDGES

EVEREDGE
THE EDGING COMPANY

PO Box 9, Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 8HA
Tel: 01453 731717

www.everedge.co.uk

ENGRAVED STATIONERY

Engraved – or die-stamped – printing, in which the text is printed from a copper die and raised from the paper, is the best type of printing there is and from shops in Bond Street it is very expensive. However, not only is the same stationery purchased from us surprisingly affordable, it will also be printed for you by the man who printed it for Buckingham Palace and the House of Commons.

Call **01962 738492** for a brochure and samples or order online at **www.leemingbrothers.co.uk**.

LEEMING BROTHERS · SWAN COTTAGE OLD ALRESFORD · HANTS · SO24 9DZ

APPLEBY ASSOCIATES
Executive Career Consultants

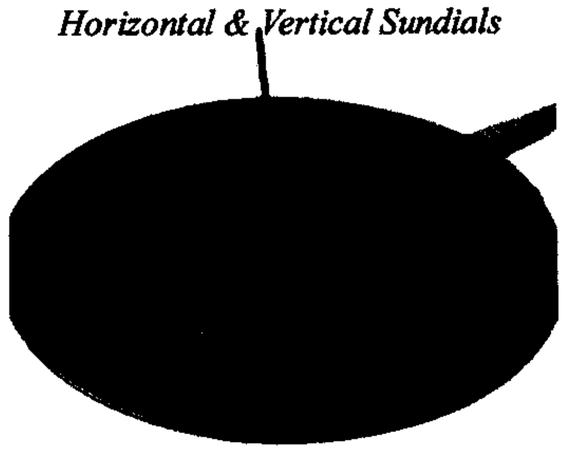
LOST CONTROL OF YOUR CAREER?

Regain the initiative today.

Book a free career review meeting.

www.ApplebyAssociates.com
0845 66 55 215

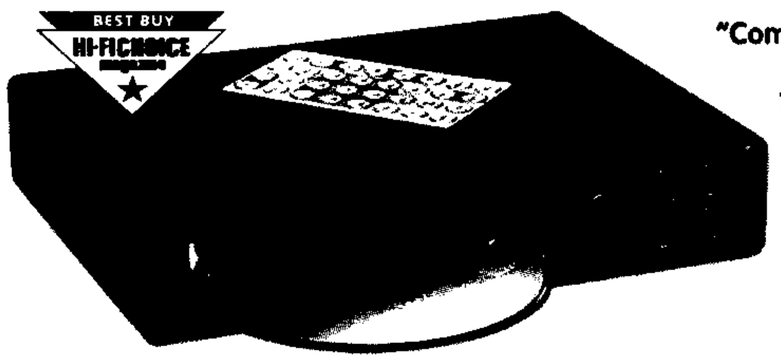
Border Sundials
PERSONALISED BRASS SUNDIALS
Armillary Spheres,
Horizontal & Vertical Sundials



Tel: 01873 737 545
www.bordersundials.co.uk

Got CDs?

The **Brennan JB7** is a new kind of CD player that holds up to 2,500 CDs. You can find and play a specific track or album from your armchair in seconds. Or play your entire music collection with one click.

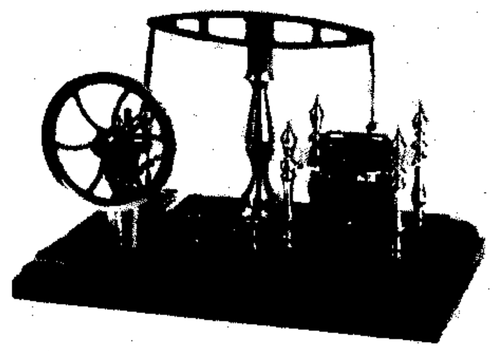


"Compact & ultra-simple... the JB7 shows superb clarity of thought and engineering"

GRAMOPHONE

www.brennan.co.uk

The First Electric Motors
Build an Historic Model Engine Kit

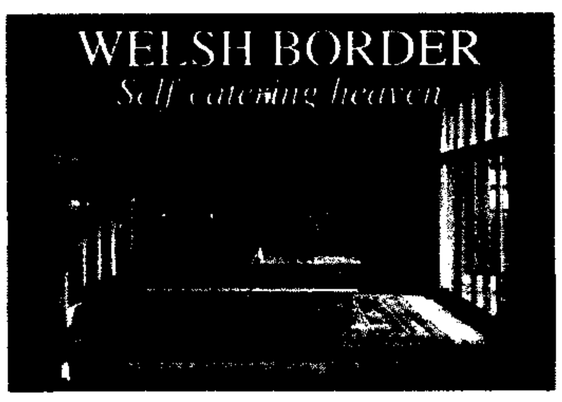


A range of fully working engines

Based on original designs from 1836 – 1860, Electro-magnetic and working on batteries, these model kits represent how the early pioneers tried to use steam engine design for the world's first electric engines.

www.oldmodels.co.uk
01243 575403

sartorial subversion
over 500 t-shirt
designs:
redmolotov.com



MSA
Law Management

Helping individuals and companies to economically, efficiently and effectively deal with legal problems and claims

Contractual Disputes Negligence Claims
Financial Recovery and Negotiations
Commercial Disputes
Employment Problems

We realistically assess the prospects of your legal problem or claim and assist you in securing a sensible and cost effective route to a positive solution.

No payments upfront or on account.....no payments to us at all until a successful conclusion

For further information or to discuss your situation in complete confidence;

Tel: 020 3008 7142
E-Mail: admin@markscottassociates.co.uk

The Present Finder
Request Mail Order Catalogue
01935 815195

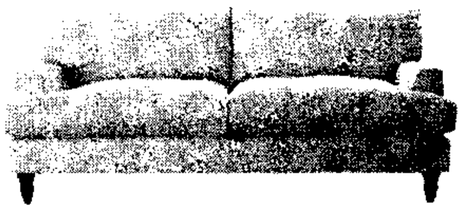
1,600

www.presentfinder.co.uk

The Origin of Faeces
A theory on the evolution of stools by
Brown, Mark

www.originoffaeces.com
ISBN 978-0-9563123-0-2

sofa.com



caution: may cause drowsiness

For reader offers please visit:
www.sofa.com/eye
or call FREE on:
0800 988 6689

YOUR LIFE STORY
Publish it with us. We write it, design it, edit it, print it and produce a wonderful book your family will keep for generations to come

TOP WRITERS
designers and editors are at your service

YOUR BOOK
Registered at the British Library

MeInWords Publishing Ltd
Broom House,
39/43 London Road,
Hadleigh, Benfleet,
Essex, SS7 2QL

www.meinwords.com
Tel: 07977-252106

Recommended bespoke publishers

meinwords PUBLISHING

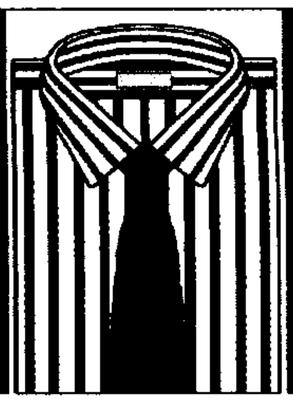
AUTHORS
PLEASE SUBMIT:
synopsis, plus sample chapters (3) for consideration.
Olympia Publishers
www.olympiapublishers.com
[illegible] Cannon Street LONDON EC4N 6NP

Lost out due to bad advice?
Why don't you sue your accountant/solicitor /surveyor?
Contact: GORVINS on 0800 015 9986 or email enquiries@gorvins.com

Tattimole
Luxury tartan handbags

www.tattimole.co.uk

SHIRTS MADE TO MEASURE



D.H.J. WEISTERS LTD

Order online or by post
Fabric samples sent on request
D.H.J.WEISTERS LTD.
ANCHOR MILL, MOSS FOLD ROAD,
DARWEN. LANCS. BB3 OAH.
Tel: 01254 700118
www.shirtsbyweisters.co.uk

BOOKFINDING SERVICE
Out-of-print titles. All subjects. Also music, records & CDs. Books are mailed overseas.

Barlow Moor Books
29 Churchwood Road, Manchester
M20 6TZ

Telephone: 0161 434 5073
e-mail:
books@barlowmoorbooks.co.uk

To book your advert online go to **www.eyeadvertise.co.uk**

Brennan JB7

Good news for CD owners

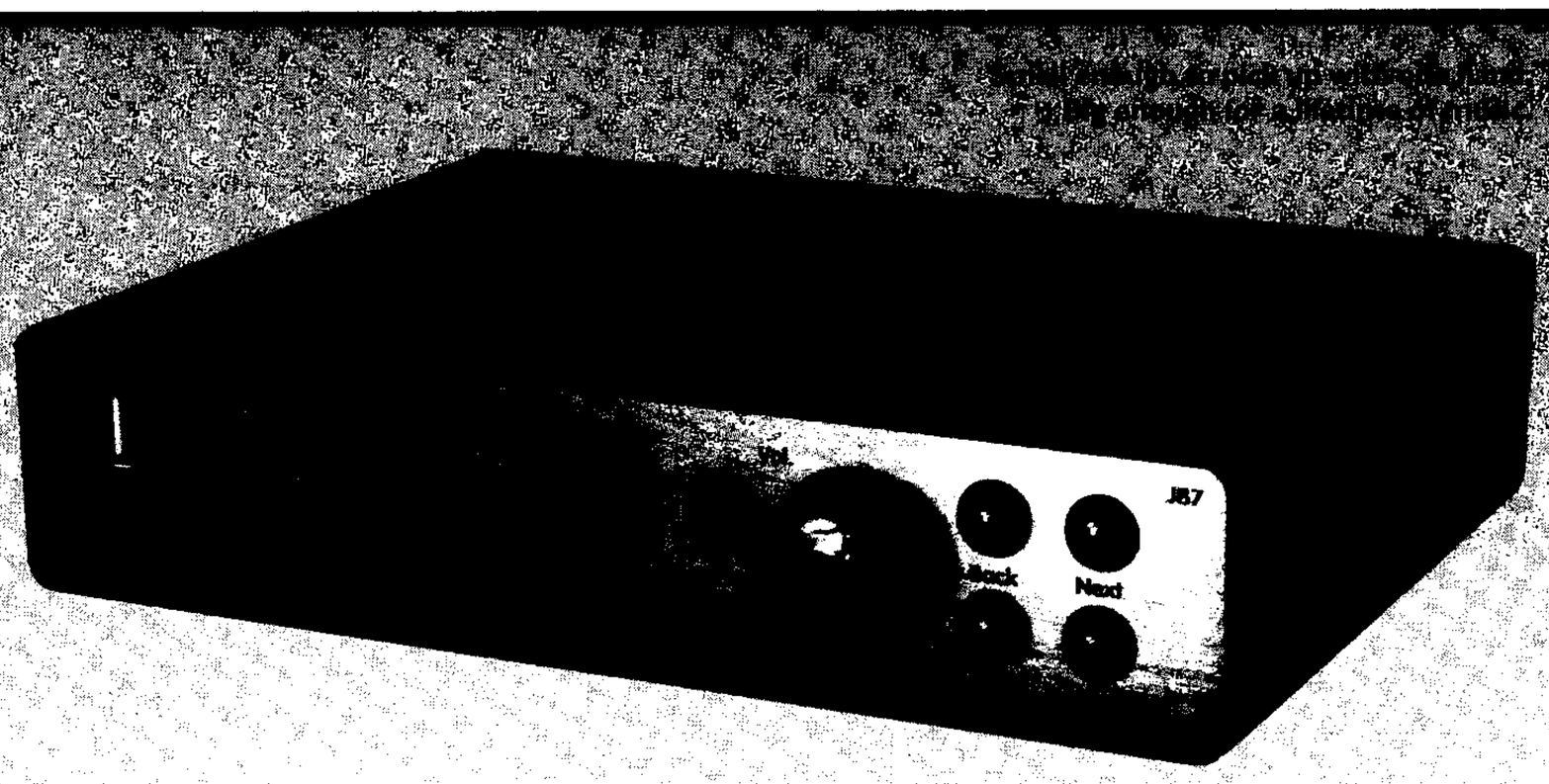
British company re-invents the HiFi

"Mr Brennan you are a genius. The JB7 is truly a wonderful thing. I have only owned mine for two days but already it feels like an old friend. I admire its simplicity of operation, its range of functions, its unobtrusive size, and the quality of sound simply delights me. It's all I could wish for. Thank you. Kind Regards"

When Martin Brennan designed the Brennan JB7 he threw out the rule book. The Brennan is a CD player with a hard disk that stores up to 5,000 CDs. It saves space and clutter and delivers near immediate access to an entire music collection. Customers rediscover/fall in love with their music again simply because the Brennan makes it so accessible.

The Brennan also records from vinyl and cassette so you can enjoy your entire music collection but keep it out of the way in another room or retire it to the attic.

You can use the JB7 in two ways. You can use it with loudspeakers or you can play it through your existing HiFi. The Brennan gives names to tracks and albums from a database of 2.6 million CDs as you load each CD. It takes a few minutes to load a CD.



The Brennan has a unique text search facility that shows a reducing number of matches as you press successive letters on the remote control. Once you get the hang of it you can find one track or album out of your entire music collection in a few seconds. So to find "Nessun Dorma" you would press letters "NES" or "DOR" and scroll through the shortlist of matches.

What's the point owning CDs you don't Play?

What's the point in owning hundreds of CDs worth thousands of pounds if you never listen to them? The problem with CDs is that it's quicker to make a cup of coffee than dip into a CD. Try timing how long it takes to pick a CD, load it in the CD player, play a snippet from a track or two, eject it and put it back where it came from. Then there is the problem of finding music. The print on a CD spine is tiny. What if the track is on a compilation CD? What if the CD is in the car? Then there is the clutter. You need to keep your CDs near the player or you wont play them. So you are forced to share your living space with hundreds of cheap plastic boxes.

CDs are great but they are also inconvenient, inaccessible and a bit of a chore - thats why Martin Brennan designed the Brennan JB7.

The Brennan JB7

The face behind Brennan

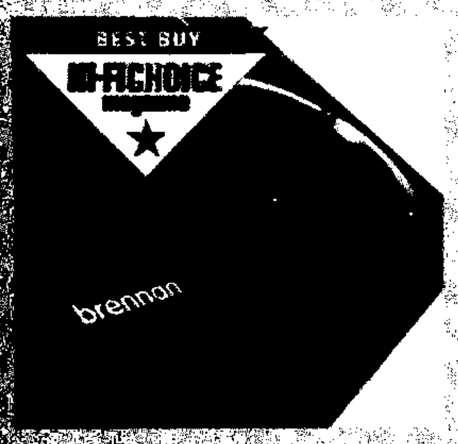
Martin Brennan

Martin is a physicist and computer engineer. He has around twenty silicon chips to his name, written over a million lines of computer code and co-designed the world's first 64 bit games computer.

"I always liked the promise of CDs. It wasn't so much the quality but the quick access to a given track. After vinyl and cassette that was a real plus. My first CD player was a five CD multi changer. My second was a ten CD changer for the car. I liked the idea of quick access to more than one CD and music that didn't repeat after 40 minutes. These players were fine but a bit clunky - there were several seconds of silence between CDs and in the car I could never find the right CD.

A few years ago I had a go at loading my cassette collection onto a PC. Cassette were obsolete but I owned around 100 and the music on them reflected an important period in my life. I recorded all of the cassettes on to the PC over a period of several weeks.

The thing is I never listened to the music on the PC. Somehow using the computer to listen to music never worked out. Maybe the computer was in the wrong place but I think it lacked the immediacy of a physical play button. In the end the computer got a virus and the music files were lost - I still had the cassettes thankfully. The JB7 is really my personal ideal music player".



Key Points

Three sizes - up to 5000 CDs • One button plays the entire collection at random • Text search finds tracks/ albums/ artists in seconds • Browse albums by spinning the volume knob • Display tracks by name as they play • Load CDs in about four minutes • 2.6 million album database - updated monthly • Seven rainbow colour coded playlists •180 x 32 soft scrolling vacuum fluorescent display • Segue function blends one track into the next • One touch record from vinyl, cassette or radio • Loads and plays MP3 from USB • Remote control or front panel • Volume knob pushes to use as a selector • Delete tracks you don't like • Clock with alarm • 60 Watt power amplifier • 4.8 x 16 x 22 cm steel and aluminium construction • Small and tough enough if you are on the move • Used by restaurants, hotels, pubs, dentists, schools • Sold to more than 30 Countries • Backup music to external USB hard disk for safe keeping • "Superb" - Gramophone • "Best Buy" - HiFi Choice • "Huge fun to use...a great talking point" - Daily Mail • Choice of colours Navy Blue or Gun Metal • Optional matching loudspeakers • Prices from £329

"Huge fun to use... a great talking point"
Daily Mail

To get the whole story and order visit www.brennan.co.uk

It feels indulgent, but it's actually prudent.

A car is never a frivolous purchase, but in the current climate it's one you need to take more seriously than ever. You'll want as much equipment as possible. Excellent residuals. Low CO_2 emissions. And you'll want it to cost a bit less too. From £480 a month, say. Does a car like this exist? Well, we can think of one candidate.

The new E-Class Saloon.

Visit eclass.co.uk or text 'pleasure' to 64500

Mercedes-Benz

Official government fuel consumption figures in MPG (Litres per 100km) for the new E-Class Saloon: Urban: 42.8 (6.6) - 16.9 (16.7), Extra Urban: 64.2 (4.4) - 35.3 (8.0), Combined: 54.3 (5.2) - 25.2 (11.2). CO_2 emissions: 137-261g/km. Model shown is a Mercedes-Benz E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport with optional metallic paint at £606.81. Total price: £31,981.81 on the road (price includes VAT, delivery, maximum Road Fund Licence, number plates, new vehicle registration fee and fuel). †For business users only. Example based on a Mercedes-Benz E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport on a 36 month Contract Hire Scheme, excluding repair and maintenance with an advance rental of £1440 followed by 35 monthly rentals of £480. All payments subject to VAT. Based on 10,000 miles per annum. Credit provided subject to status by Daimler Fleet Management UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. This offer is available for registrations between 25th June and 31st October 2009. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other published Retailer offer. Offer is subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to print.

9 770032 888129 37